FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 MARCH 1987

Israel

Policy on RSA — The Inner Cabinet's decision not to sign any new defense agreements with South Africa provides an answer to the U.S. Congress' threat to punish countries having military ties with the RSA, Jerusalem television stated. In its 18 March meeting, the Inner Cabinet also agreed to reduce bilateral ties in general and to establish a special committee to formulate Israel's new policy toward South Africa. The television said these decisions were reached after a heated argument in which Industry Minister Ari'el Sharon opposed sanctions while Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres stressed the need to join other Western countries in taking steps. The result was a compromise as ministers agreed to condemn apartheid but rejected Peres' "maximalist" proposal for immediate economic sanctions, Jerusalem radio noted.

Call-up — Jerusalem radio broadcast call-up orders for 10 IDF units 18 March, pointing out that this is the first time a call-up exercise has been held without prior notice.

Palestinian Talks

The next PNC meeting may be held in Algeria 20 April, Fatah official Salah Khalaf revealed in remarks reported by Algiers radio. Khalaf said Fatah reached agreement on this with the DFLP and three other Palestinian organizations during a 15 March meeting in Tunis, the radio noted, adding that a preparatory meeting may be held "very shortly" to draw up an agenda.

The radio disclosed that the DFLP's Nayif Hawatimah is holding "intensive" talks with PFLP leader George Habash in Tripoli to convince him to participate in the PNC meeting. PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat will hold talks in Algiers with Habash for the same purpose, Fatah official Khalil al-Wazir said in an interview with the CSSR paper *Bratislava Pravda*.

Lebanon

Security — A Palestinian was shot dead while unloading a supply truck that had been allowed into Shatila Camp, Voice of Lebanon radio reported, noting that the PFLP held the Amal Movement responsible and urged the Syrians to halt such actions. The radio also stated that Palestinian gunmen have withdrawn from Zighdraya, near Sidon, citing reports that Amal fighters have entered the area. However, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon subsequently reported that Zighdraya is under the control of Hizballah and gunmen loyal to dissident Amal official Hasan Hashim.

Freed Saudi — Saudi diplomat Bakr al-Damanhuri disclosed that his kidnappers had interrogated him about the fate of Nasir Sa'id, a Saudi opposition leader who disappeared in Beirut in December 1979, AFP reported. The kidnappers accused him of being party to Sa'id's arrest and handover to the Saudi authorities, Al-Damanhuri said.

Iran

Some 80 percent of the majority "Feda'i-ye Khalq" organization was smashed in 1986-87 with the arrest of more than 700 members, the deputy information and intelligence minister asserted in a statement reported by Tehran radio. The minister told reporters that charges against those arrested include attempting to overthrow the Islamic Republic, cooperating with the Tudeh Party, espionage, and sabotage. Some of those detained renounced their position and were released, the minister noted.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Maritime Raid — Iraqi aircraft hit a second maritime target near the Iranian coast 18 March, according to an Iraqi military spokesman cited by INA.

Egyptian Aid to Iraq — Iraq has requested more military experts from Egypt, IRNA disclosed citing the Kuwaiti paper *Al-Watan*. According to the paper, President Husni Mubarak approved the request without referring it to the Egyptian parliament. The last batch of 20 Egyptian military experts arrived in Baghdad over the past 2 months and Egyptian military officers have been "actively involved in preparing war plans," the paper added.

Egypt on Iranian Missiles — Referring to recent reports about Iranian missile installations near the Strait of Hormuz, the Egyptian defense minister said that Iran has deployed surface-to-surface missiles in the area in order to attack shipping, MENA reported.

Egypt-USSR

Egypt and the USSR are expected to sign an agreement settling Egypt's military debts and cancelling the interest on them, *Al-Ahram revealed 16 March. The debts and other issues will* be discussed during talks beginning 18 March in Moscow between Soviet officials and an Egyptian delegation led by Economy Minister Yusri Mustafa, the paper reported.

Djibouti Explosion

A powerful bomb exploded in a Djibouti coffee shop 18 March, killing 8 people and injuring 27, Paris radio reported, noting that French personnel were among the casualties. Security circles in Djibouti attributed the attack to a former commerce minister who was recently sentenced to life imprisonment, the radio added.

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'Provisional Agreement' Reached on PNC Session

AU181318 Paris AFP in English 1258 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Paris, March 18 (AFP) — A provisional agreement to hold a meeting of the Palestinian National Council (PNC) — the Palestinian parliament-in-exile — in Algiers next month has been reached by five Palestinian groups, it was announced here Wednesday.

The announcement was made by Abu Iyad [Khalaf Salah], second-in-command of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). He said the agreement was reached in Tunis last Sunday between Al-Fatah, the main Palestinian movement, the Marxist Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the Palestinian Communist Party, the Iraqi-backed Arab Liberation Front (ALF), and the Popular Struggle Front (PSF).

Mr Abu Iyad said that a preparatory meeting of signatories of the agreement will be held in Algiers on April 10 to prepare the agenda for the meeting, which was to begin on April 20.

The PNC last met in Amman in November 1984. The DFLP, the Marxist-Leninist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), led by George Habash, and two pro-Syrian groups did not attend.

Mr Habash has boycotted the PNC since PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat arrived at a rapprochement with Egypt in December 1983 after the siege of Tripoli, north Lebanon.

According to various sources, DFLP leader Nayif Hawatimah went Tuesday to Tripoli, Libya, to try with the aid of the Libyan authorities to convince Mr Habash to take part in the PNC meeting.

Mr Abu Iyad, who arrived in Paris Tuesday from Tunis, en route to the Gulf, did not say how long he would be in France or why. Nor did he say if he would be meeting French leaders.

Bendjedid Receives 'Arafat, Al-Wazir 18 March

LD181436 Algiers APS in English 1336 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Algiers, 18/3/87 (APS) — President Chadli Bendjedid received today here PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, with whom he reviewed the latest developments on the Palestinian scene.

The audience took place in presence of Mr Sadek Zouaten, member of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee charged with the Council of Friendship and Solidarity With Peoples, and Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], the chief-commander of the Palestinian resistance forces.

YAR President Receives PFLP's Habash in Banghazi

JN181428 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Assembly, received Brother Dr George Habash, PFLP secretary general in Banghazi, Libya, the evening before last.

During the meeting, they discussed the latest developments in the Arab arena in general, the recent developments of the Palestine question in particular, and the militant relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions. The brother president emphasized our country's obvious stands on the Palestinian people's struggle and its eagerness to see the Palestinian ranks closed because this would enhance the Palestinian revolution's ability to confront the conspiracies being hatched against it by the Zionist enemy and its agents. It would also enable the Palestinian people to achieve their legitimate national objectives of repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state under their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

Brother Dr George Habash expressed his appreciation for our country's firm and principled stands in support of the causes of the Arab nation in general and the Palestine question in particular.

Al-Wazir on Peace Conference, Camps War, PNC

AU181501 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 17 Mar 87 p 6

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Khalil al-Wazir by Bratislava *Pravda* staff journalist Julius Loerincz: "Steps Toward the Palestinians' United Course" — in Prague "recently"; initial paragraph is newspaper's introduction]

[Text] Prague was recently visited by one of the cofounders of the largest Palestinian resistance organization — Fatah — Khalil al-Wazir, better known throughout the world as Abu Jihad, member of the PLO Executive Committee, who has been cooperating very actively of late with representatives from several resistance organizations in restoring the unity of the Palestinian national liberation movement, a matter connected with his current visit to our country. Our staff journalist Julius Loerincz spoke with him about some topical issues of the current Middle East developments.

[Loerincz] Mikhail Gorbachev recently described the Middle East as the "ganglion of the world." Following the proposal by the Soviet Union and France, the UN General Assembly has decided to set up a preparatory committee for an international conference on Middle East problems comprising UN Security Council members, with the participation of the parties involved, including the PLO. What is your opinion of this step?

[Abu Jihad] The PLO warmly supports this initiative, which is in harmony with its line. Therefore, we regard the broad international support for the proposal as our great success.

True, the U.S. leadership does not include Middle East issues among the main problems, and it has been trying to lull similar initiatives to sleep and paralyze them. It is incapable and, so far, also unwilling to set a course toward a just peace in the Middle East. This is borne out by its diplomatic and political activity in the region, including the journeys undertaken by Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, and the announced journey by former President Carter, for whom the current administration has furnished information and determined the countries in which he is to conduct talks, including Syria.

The U.S. leadership is still under pressure from the Zionist lobby, which, as we know, is behind Irangate. The determining elements for Washington are its power interests: the American-Israeli strategic cooperation, from which stems the continuing, general support for Israel's aggressive policy, beginning with deliveries of the most modern weapons and ending with economic, financial, and political support. The U.S. leadership is interested in the Iran-Iraq war being expanded, in exploiting it to exert pressure on the Arab countries in the Persian Gulf region that are concerned about the war's consequences. According to Washington, their concern could be dispelled by constructing new American military bases.

However, it is also true that the U.S. leadership would not benefit in any way should it openly oppose an international conference on the Middle East. After all, this proposal, which is originally Soviet, has met with the support of the Arab summit conference, the Eighth Nonaligned Movement Summit, the recent Kuwait meeting of the ICO associating more than 40 states, and many other important international forums.

[Loerincz] Such a conference is even being discussed in Israel nowadays....

[Abu Jihad] Yes, but in essence what is involved there is to block the initiative aimed at convening the conference. According to Shim'on Peres, the current foreign affairs minister, although he is in favor of it, it should only be an umbrella under which to hide the concept of separate accords of the same nature as the Camp David agreements. This is being rejected by all the initiators of the international conference, because it is obvious it involves a sort of "taking the bull by the horns," with the aim of rendering ineffective the idea of convening the conference and avoiding a comprehensive solution of the Middle East crisis, including the Palestinian problem. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir rejects an international conference in terms of its form and content; he openly says he considers his task to be to "kill" the idea of the conference. There is no doubt he has experience in this respect; after all, he has been a terrorist of international renown for more than 40 years.

[Loerincz] The tragic fate of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon is especially alarming in the Middle East today. The attacks on them and the blockade are not only a political issue, but also a humanitarian one.

[Abu Jihad] We regard the aggression against the camps as part of the tragedy of our nation, driven out and deprived of its Palestinian fatherland. I mention only the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance in 1982, the targets of which also were the camps on Lebanese territory; the massacres in the Sabra and Shatila camps in September 1982 under the command of then Israeli Defense Minister Sharon; the systematic Israeli air attacks on the camps; the shelling by the Israeli Navy; and since 1985, the attacks by the Lebanese Amal Movement and by the 1st and the 6th Brigades of the Lebanese Army.

Today the Shatila camp has been 90-percent destroyed; the Rashidiyah camp in southern Lebanon, 60 percent; and another one of the Beirut camps, Burj-al-Barajinah, more than 50 percent. At least 2,500 persons perished in the camps and more than 5,000 people were wounded. Despite the fact that the Amal Movement and the aforementioned Lebanese Army units attacked the camps with tanks, artillery, and rockets, sometimes even six times a day, they did not succeed in taking them. This attests to the high combat ability of the Palestinian defenders.

However, after the military fiasco, Amal laid total siege to the camps with the intention of starving them to death. In the Rashidiyah camp Amal members shot 9- to 12-year-old children to death who tried to get out to get food. Palestinian women met a similar fate in other places.

It is understandable that this situation elicited great indignation and condemnation throughout the world. Many countries and international organizations are trying to halt the killing of Palestinians through starvation. Those few food trucks let into the camp have not yet solved the problem. The blockade continues; the hunger is even more terrible; children are dying and the wounded and sick do not have enough medication.

[Loerincz] From several sides one hears that the Palestinians in Lebanon should not have weapons....

[Abu Jihad] The Palestinians began moving into Lebanon in 1948, just as into other Arab countries. Today there are more than 500,000 of them in Lebanon alone, and they want nothing else than to live safely, in peace. The same applies to the other inhabitants of the country. But being subject to various aggressions, surrounded by a forest of weapons, we must defend our bare existence, something attested to by current events. We want to live and work, and not vegetate in some sort of ghetto under continuous threat and attack from the Israelis, various armed militias, and armies. Therefore, we must carry weapons, and we have the right to do so.

[Loerincz] What actually is the purpose of the attacks on the Palestinians in Lebanon, including the blockade of the camps?

[Abu Jihad] To drive us out, not only from the camps, but also from Lebanese territory in general. Where to? To Jordan, in order to have as many Palestinians as possible assemble there which would enforce the so-called Jordanian choice for us. That is also Israel's idea. In other words, the Palestinian state would not be created on the soil of our Palestinian fatherland, but outside it. We reject this "choice," and Jordan and all Arab states reject it, too.

[Loerincz] Has the entry of Syrian troops into West Beirut changed the situation?

[Abu Jihad] Syrian troops came to West Beirut after members of the Amal Movement also attacked the Lebanese Communist Party and the Progressive Socialist Party, headed by Walid

Junblatt. Thus, this step had to be a barrier against Amal. This is above all a matter of Syrian-Lebanese relations. We only ask: Why does Amal continue its attacks on Palestinian camps before the eyes of Syrian troops?

It is known that the United States and Israel would like the Palestinian resistance movement and the Lebanese national movement in West Beirut and southern Lebanon to crumble and become disarmed. Every step on this path serves the enemies.

[Loerincz] Last year and also in the first months of this year, a lot of work was done as to restore the PLO's unity. What is the situation in this respect today?

[Abu Jihad] I would like to draw attention to one fundamental matter: The Palestinian nation is united in its resistance on occupied territory and also outside it and in the struggle for its legitimate rights, including the right to return home and to establish its own state on its own national territory. This has been attested to by the extensive actions and demonstrations by Palestinians on the West Bank of the Jordan and in the Gaza Strip, through which they have been expressing their solidarity with those suffering in camps in Lebanon over the past 3 months. At the same time, they also protested against Israeli malevolence in the occupied territories and against the Jordanian regime's attempts to shackle the occupied territories economically and share the administration of them with Israel.

However, the issues of unification concern cooperation among the various organizations in the resistance movement. Many working meetings have been held since the adoption of the Prague Agreement, with the aim of developing agreements from Prague [as published] and creating conditions for convening the 18th session of the PNC, which as you know is our parliament.

[Loerincz] Let us recall that the Prague Agreement came into being at a consultation of representatives of Fatah, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Palestinian Communist Party in our capital last September. It contains four fundamental points: First, it is necessary to maintain the unity of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and reject any substitute for it. Second, it is necessary to reject all concepts and forms of an American solution — the separate and partial agreements, including the Camp David accords. Third, it is necessary to strive for an international conference on the Middle East with the equal and independent participation of the PLO. Fourth, the PLO will continue to look at its relations with Syria on the basis of the joint objectives of the struggle against imperialism and Zionism, on the basis of solidarity, equality, and mutual respect. The Prague joint declaration also noted that the Amman Agreement between Jordan's King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, is no longer the foundation of the PLO's policy. Thus, we ask how the situation in the movement has developed since last September?

[Abu Jihad] I have already mentioned the working meetings of representatives of the individual organizations held in Moscow, Tunis, Algiers, Tripoli, and naturally here in Prague. The latest meeting was again held in Prague — on Saturday, 14 March. It was attended by representatives of five organizations of our resistance movement — Fatah, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Arab Liberation Front, the Palestinian Liberation Front, and the Palestinian Communist Party. An agreement was reached that could become the foundation for the movement's political and organizational program in the future. A session of the PLO Executive Committee, expanded by the PLO's Political Secretariat, was held in Tunis yesterday, and Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, will travel to Algiers to discuss the final course of preparations for the 18th PNC session. He will continue talks with George Habash, general secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, with the intention of having that organization join in this important movement. The PLO leadership reaches out its hand to all; it also calls on the Palestinian representatives in Damascus in the Palestinian National Salvation Front to come to Algiers to attend our parliament's session.

In this connection Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Libyan Jamahiriyah, has our full support. He has been making great efforts in his contacts with Palestinian organizations that have their seat in Syria to contribute to consolidating the unity of our resistance movement. Not so long ago, I discussed these matters with him on two occasions. We hope his efforts will bear fruit, and therefore we expect that conditions will be created in the next 4-5 weeks for a PNC session that will involve broad participation.

PNC Speaker Discusses Amman Accord, Syrian Ties

JN180905 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 15 Mar 87 p 25

[Interview with PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih by an unidentified *Al-Anba'* correspondent — date and place not given]

[Excerpts][*Al-Anba'*] The participation of most of the Palestinian factions together with Fatah in the meetings of the Palestinian Writers Federartion held in Algeria indicates that the mediation efforts to restore Palestinian national unity have achieved initial results. Some affirm that the 18th PNC session will be held soon and will include many factions. Some also affirm that semi-agreement was reached between Fatah and other Palestinian parties to cancel the resolutions of the 17th PNC session, held in Amman. Would PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih tell us the facts?

[Al-Sa'ih] In fact, the idea of canceling the 17th PNC session resolutions does not exist at all. This cannot be accepted on the national or organizational levels, because the previous PLO Executive Committee resigned and a new committee was elected during that session. That session elected institutions that exercised their tasks and carried out their duties. A new PNC chairmanship also was elected in that session. In light of this and other considerations, we cannot at all agree to discuss the cancellation of the Amman session resolutions.

I would also like to explain here that during a previous meeting that the [Fatah Revolutionary] Council held in Baghdad, an open call was directed to all Palestinian organizations that did not participate in the Amman PNC session to start an unconditional dialogue to discuss the return to Palestinian legitimacy.

Let me tell you something else. They used to demand the abrogation of the Amman accord — that is, the February agreement between Jordan and the PLO. Our answer was that we refuse to abrogate this or any other agreement. We only agree to open a dialogue. The decisive decision on these matters is the PNC's responsibility, which is considered the higher institution of the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

[*Al-Anba'*] What is your stand on the PNSF [Palestinian National Salvation Front]?

[Al-Sa'ih] As is known, the PNSF is a group of Fatah dissidents. We, in the PNC, do not recognize it. We only recognize the legitimate institutions and these institutions do not recognize the PNSF for many reasons, including the circumstances under which that group announced its split. With respect to our brothers in Syria, we understand the conditions under which they live, but we do not approve of their view. [passage omitted in which Al-Sayid calls on dissidents to bring their differences with 'Arafat to PNC]

Frankly, we in the PNC decided to achieve national unity first and then unity with the Arab countries. We extended our hands to the brothers in Syria. In the Amman PNC session, we even emphasized the importance of unity with the Arab countries.

In my capacity as PNC speaker, I recently announced my readiness to visit Syria and to begin a dialogue with our brothers there if an invitation is addressed to me to discuss the relationship between Syria and the PLO on an objective basis, not a whimsical basis. If we agree on the Palestinian principles approved by the PNC sessions, any violation will be considered a departure from the agreement and from the cause, even if this violation is made by Yasir 'Arafat, 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, or anybody else. We realize that we would differ on some issues because each has his own viewpoint.

Recently, 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam, a former chairman of the Arab parliaments, and 'Abd al-Rahman al-Yurani [not further identified] visited me and conveyed to me the greetings of President Hafiz al-Asad and 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. They told me: Syria has no objections to you. I told them: Tell President Hafiz al-Asad and Mr Khaddam that I am ready to visit Damascus if an invitation is addressed to me to discuss the controversial issues.

I still say the Palestinian people and their legitimate leadership extend their hands to their brothers in Syria. We do not deny Syria's importance and major role. However, others should not deny our right to our independent decisionmaking. We, as an organization, have a political entity and personality, although we have no right to deal with the Palestinian cause without considering the opinion of Syria, Jordan, and the Arab countries. The cause has a Palestinian as well as an Arab face. The Palestinian face means that internal affairs — such as the election of the Executive Committee members, the PLO chairman, the PNC speaker — and other internal affairs are the prerogatives of the Palestinian people. Syria, Jordan, and the Arab countries have no right to intervene in this. However, the PLO cannot deal with what is related to the Palestinian question without the Arab countries. As no Arab ruler can deal with the cause separately, we also cannot deal with it separately.

Therefore, I say to our brothers in Syria that we extend our hands to you. However, they have no right to say to us that they do not want Yasir 'Arafat or any other person, because 'Arafat is a Palestinian affair. [passage omitted]

PLO Dissident Reportedly Shot in Amman

JN182031 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 15 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] Cairo — Well-informed Arab sources in Cairo said Brigadier General 'Atallah Muhammad 'Atallah, known as Abu al-Zaim, was shot and wounded in an assassination attempt in Amman a few days ago. He was reportedly admitted to a Jordanian military hospital amid strict security measures. The Jordanian authorities shrouded the incident in secrecy.

Reports reaching Cairo from Amman say there has been a split in Abu al-Za'im's movement after pro-PLO elements mutinied against him.

PLO, UK Officials Hold Talks in Tunis 17 March

JN181731 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] A Palestinian-British meeting was held at PLO Political Department Headquarters in Tunis yesterday morning. It was attended by Brother Abu Ja'far [Ihsan Abu Hijallah], PLO Political Department director general, and Alan Goulty, head of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the British Foreign Office [title as heard].

Brother Abu Ja'far explained the developments in the war of annihilation being waged against the besieged Palestinian camps, as well as the responsibility of the international community on this humanitarian issue. The discussion dealt with political developments in the Palestinian and international arenas, especially the 23 February 1987 Brussels statement on an international conference, which the PLO considers a positive step by the European group.

Brother Abu Ja'far called for a clearer stand by the European states, especially on the need for PLO participation in the international conference on the basis of international resolutions in this regard. He called on the British Government to intensify contacts with the PLO and to promote its stand on recognition of the PLO.

The meeting was attended by Brother Hayil al-Fahum, official in charge of West Europe in the Political Department, and the UK ambassador in Tunis.

INTRA-GULF AFFAIRS

Forces Conduct 'Shield of Peninsula-3' Exercise

JN181654 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Major General 'Ali ibn Majid al-Ma'mari, head of the palace office, paid an inspection visit this morning to the training sites of the "Shield of the Peninsula-3" exercise being conducted on the Sultanate's territory. Upon his arrival, he was received by the exercise control commanders: Staff Maj Gen Hamid ibn Sa'id al-'Ufi, assistant chief of staff and commander of the exercise; Staff Brigadier Gen and pilot Muhammad ibn Mubarak al-'Amiri; and Staff Brig Gen Jum'ah ibn Salim al-Khatiri.

After listening to a briefing on the exercise, the head of the palace office inspected the command site, where the competent officers briefed him on the tasks and duties of all units taking part in the exercise. He then inspected the sites of the forces taking part in the exercise, beginning by visiting the "Shield of the Peninsula-3" forces headquarters, where he was received by Maj Gen Turki Hudaydan al-Nufay'i, commander of the "Shield of the Peninsula-3" forces.

The head of the palace office then visited the sites of the other forces taking part in the exercise. At the headquarters of the UAE force, the commander was on hand to receive Al-Ma'mari and those accompanying him. He later visited the Bahraini force. The force's commander and officers received Al-Ma'mari. The head of the palace office visited the Kuwaiti force taking part in the exercise, and the force's commander and officers received him. He then visited the Qatari force's site, where he met with its commander, officers, and enlisted personnel. Finally, the head of the palace office visited the Saudi Arabian force's site, where he was received by the commander and officers.

On these visits, during which he was accompanied by the assistant chief of staff and commander of the exercise and by the commander of the "Shield of the Peninsula-3" force, Maj Gen Al-Ma'mari was briefed on the duties and tasks of all units in the exercise, on the progress of the exercise, and on the phases of the exercise that have been completed up to now. The maneuvers have begun, God willing, on the Sultanate's territory. These maneuvers, will involve the "Shield of the Peninsula-3" force, the Omani sultan's ground forces, the Omani sultan's Air Force, and the Omani sultan's Navy. The maneuvers will last more than 2 weeks.

This exercise seeks to train the "Shield of the Peninsula-3" force in rapid deployment when required and in military operations necessitated by such deployment within the framework of the tasks assigned to it. The units of the "Shield of the Peninsula-3" force began arriving in Oman on 14 March, and the last units arrived on 17 March. [passage omitted]

The forces involved in the exercise arrived in the tactical concentration zone near the mock operations area. They deployed according to the scheduled plans. Staff Maj Gen Hamid ibn Sa'id al-'Ufi, assistant chief of staff, is the commander of the exercise.

KUWAIT

UK's Trefgarne on 'Extremely Satisfactory' Talks

LD190952 Kuwait KUNA in English 0800 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Kuwait, March 19 (KUNA) — The British minister of state for defense procurement Thursday deplored the continuation of the seven-year old Gulf war and said the war is an appalling human and material drain of resources of both countries.

In a departure statement to KUNA Lord Trefgarne reaffirmed his country's impartial position in the Gulf war.

Commenting on his two-day visit to Kuwait he said that he had talks with senior Kuwaiti officials particularly with Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah on a wide-range of matters of mutual interest.

Trefgarne who described his talks as "extremely satisfactory" said he had useful and constructive exchange of views with his Kuwaiti hosts.

In reply to a question the British minister praised his country's relations with the Gulf Cooperation Council states and said "London welcomes regional grouping of states coming together in their own interest."

Asked whether he received any response to the hardware offer he made to the Kuwaiti officials, Trefgarne declined to comment saying it's up to the host country.

PDRY

Al-'Attas, Ahmad Inspect Air Defense Command

EA181920 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, Political Bureau member and Supreme People's Council Presidium chairman, accompanied by Brother Colonel Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, Political Bureau candidate member and defense minister, inspected the Air Force and Air Defense Command this morning. They were received by Brothers [names indistinct], deputy director of the Defense Ministry's Political Department; 'Ali Muthanna Hadi, Air Force and Air Defense commander; and brothers in the services command.

Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas chaired a meeting with the commander, deputies, and staff of the Air Force and Air Defense Command. During the meeting, he listened to an explanation of the achievements in 1986 as well as current and future programs and plans.

The brother chairman of the Presidium and the brother Defense Minister, accompanied by the deputy director of the Political Department and the commander of the Air Force, inspected sections of the Air Force and Air Defense and acquainted themselves with the progress of their work. Brother al-'Attas also inspected the Air Force College and acquainted himself with the progress of studies. He then opened the new semester. [passage omitted]

At the conclusion of his visit, the brother chairman of the Presidium expressed his great appreciation for the sincere efforts being exerted by the brothers in the Air Force and Air Defense Command — the brother officers, NCO's and soldiers of the Air Force and Air Defense. He also expressed his pleasure at the high level of combat readiness, and affirmed the support of the political leadership in the party and state for our valiant Armed Forces, including the Air Force and Air Defense.

SAUDI ARABIA

Prince Majid Greets Official Released in Lebanon

LD182309 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2220 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Jeddah, 18 Mar 1987 (SPA) — Tonight at King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport in Jeddah His Royal Highness Prince Majid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, governor of the Mecca region, welcomed Bakr al-Damanhuri, a Saudi citizen, following the successful effort to free him. He had disappeared while returning to his house in Beirut on 12 January 1987.

He also was welcomed by his sons, brothers, and a number of relatives and friends. Immediately upon Bakr al-Damanhuri's arrival, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, may God preserve him, telephoned the officials to inquire about him and congratulate him on his safe return.

An official source expressed to SPA the appreciation of officials in the Kingdom for the thankful efforts exerted by the Syrian authorities and the Amal Movement at the direction of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, and Nabih Birri's follow-up efforts, for the release of citizen Bakr al-Damanhuri, the official in charge of students affairs in Beirut, and his safe return to his homeland and family.

ROK Army Delegation Departs After Visit

LD182326 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2215 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Jeddah, 18 Mar (SPA) — ROK Army chief of staff, General Pak Hui-to, and the accompanying delegation left Jeddah for their country this evening following a visit of several days to the Kingdom.

He was seen off at King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport by the commander of the western region, Major General Salih al-Sudays, and a number of the region's senior officers.

UAE

Information Minister Confers With TASS Official

JN181431 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1345 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 Mar (WAM) — UAE Information and Culture Minister Ahmad ibn Hamid today at noon received (Viktor Lipidiv), chief of the Arab Section of TASS, who is now visiting the country on a tour of a number of Gulf states. During the meeting, (Lipidiv) reviewed TASS activities and its Arabic programs in addition to the possibility of cooperation between TASS and WAM.

Mubarak Addresses Issue of Sectarian Strife

JN181829 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1745 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Huda Tawfiq dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has spoken on the current sectarian strife in Egypt for the first time. The president demanded that attempts to instigate sectarian troubles be confronted. He described the sectarian troubles as a strange phenomenon in Egypt aimed at undermining the brotherhood that exists among us, which we never abandoned, as he put it. In fact, President Mubarak dealt with the problem in an extremely wary and delicate manner. He asked that every Egyptian be firm and use his mind and conscience and reject instigations of trouble and the rumors peddled by those who strive to harm the stability of Egypt.

It is noted that Egyptian officials have been evading any discussion of this sensitive issue. However, daring writers are discussing it daily in the newspapers. President Mubarak's statement came during his visit to Al- Minya in Upper Egypt, the scene of the sectarian incidents and the burning of a mosque, some churches, and a number of shops belonging to Christians.

Writers and the opposition parties blame external elements. Indeed, they concentrate their accusations on Israel and the Zionist policy, which is bent on instigating discord and disunity among the united Egyptian people. This was stated to us by Ibrahim Shukri, leader of the Labor Party, who is running for office in alliance with the Muslim Brotherhood and the Liberal Party.

Today the leftist party, the NPUG, raised doubts over a visit by the U.S. ambassador in Cairo to Upper Egypt a few days before the outbreak of the incidents.

The issue is now being discussed on the elections level, especially as a writer raised the issue of Coptic candidates on party tickets. He said the number of candidates on the NDP ticket is no more than 7 and on the Al-Wafd ticket only 14.

Minister Issues Orders on 'Sectarian Instigators'

NC181639 Cairo MENA in English 1634 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, March 18 (MENA) — Interior Minister Zaki Badr said today he has issued orders to police forces to deal immediately with sectarian instigators and that the police will never tolerate them.

Speaking at the celebration today of the graduation of 255 police officers who have terminated the training courses which were held at the officers training academy, Badr urged party forces not to turn this national case into a situation of masses bidding or use it for political gains.

Abu Ghazalah on Libyan Plane, International Ties

NC181807 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1635 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 18 Mar (MENA) — Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, has denied Libya's allegation that Egypt hijacked a Libyan military aircraft. He said the aircraft arrived in Egyptian airspace and asked permission to land. It was permitted to do so after "give and take" [akdh wa'ata'].

In statements made today after attending a training exercise of the Egyptian Armed Forces, Abu Ghazalah said: The pilot and copilot of the Libyan aircraft have asked for political asylum in Egypt; this is all that has happened. He pointed out that Egyptian media have been accurate in their reports on this issue and have concealed nothing. Let the others say whatever they like, he said.

Referring to reports that Iran has deployed missiles along the Hormuz Strait, Abu Ghazalah said: These are surface-to-surface missiles, unlike the long-range missiles Iran uses to hit Baghdad. The purpose of these missiles is to hit ships.

Abu Ghazalah added: If these reports are true, this is definitely an escalation of the Iran-Iraq war. He pointed out that the states that have interests in the strait might have another opinion about this escalation. About the possibility that Iran might launch a new attack against Iraq this month, Abu Ghazalah expressed his belief that an Iranian attack would take place but would fail, like the previous attack.

Abu Ghazalah praised the good relations between Egypt and the African, Arab, and Islamic worlds. He said: We seek to continue and bolster these relations. He noted that cooperation does not mean Egyptian [military] presence, but an exchange of military expertise, missions, visits, and culture.

In this regard, Abu Ghazalah revealed he has received several invitations to visit a number of friendly states, saying: We announce these invitations only after planning the visits. He said he has received invitations to visit Yugoslavia, Italy, Romania, and Northern Yemen.

Abu Ghazalah also said: On the basis of Egypt's good international relations, we have addressed official invitations to the Arab and African defense ministers and other delegations to attend the Egyptian defense equipment fair, which will be held in September. He noted that this fair will include new weapons which will be shown in Egypt for the first time.

After attending the training exercise "Victory 119," which was conducted by units from the central zone forces, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah spoke about the Armed Forces training program. He said: We are focusing on night combat training for our Armed Forces, because it gives us many advantages, particularly if the enemy has air superiority. He added: On this basis, there is a timetable we are following to equip all our gear for use in night combat, and our pilots are being trained in night combat. We will soon achieve full capability for night interception operations, he said.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah added that the program involves equipping Eastern- and Western-made tanks with this equipment, including that for night vision, night fighting, light pooling, and thermal vision. He said: We are proceeding along these lines so that all our equipment will have night vision capability.

Soviet Delegation Arrives for Visit 17 March

NC171816 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar (MENA) — Vladimir Tolstikov, chairman of the Soviet Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity, arrived in Cairo this evening at the head of a delegation. The delegation's 1-week visit comes in response to an invitation from the Egyptian Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity.

During their stay, the delegation members will meet with the Al-Azhar rector Shaykh Jad al-Haqq 'Ali Jad al-Haqq and Awqaf Minister Dr Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub.

Discussion during this visit, the first of its kind, will focus on bilateral relations and solidarity between Egypt and the Soviet Union.

Ahmad Hamrush, chairman of the Egyptian Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity, received the delegation at the airport.

Confers With Lutfi

NC181612 Cairo MENA in English 1605 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, March 18-(MENA) Speaker of Shura Council Dr 'Ali Lutfi received today a delegation of the Soviet Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity. The meeting, attended by Ahmad Hamrush, head of the Egyptian Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity, dealt with viewpoints on world peace, Middle East conflict, the Afghanistan question and the Gulf war.

Dr Lutfi briefed the delegation on efforts exerted by Egypt to maintain just and permanent peace and to hold the international conference for peace.

The delegation arrived here yesterday on a week-long visit at the invitation of the Egyptian Committee for Afro-Asian People Solidarity Organisation.

Soviet Steel Workers Union Delegation Arrives

NC171951 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Mar (MENA) — A delegation representing the Soviet Union's Steel Workers Union arrived in Cairo this evening for a week-long visit. This visit comes in response to an invitation from the General Trade Union of Engineering, Metal, and Electricity workers.

The Soviet delegation is being led by (Buje Yusuf), secretary of the Central Committee of the Steel Workers Union. He is scheduled to hold talks with Egyptian trade union leaders headed by Sa'id Jum'ah, chairman of the engineering, metal, and electricity workers union and secretary of the General Union of Labor Associations in charge of political communications affairs. The talks will focus on bolstering bilateral relations and cooperation in fields of mutual interest. [passage omitted]

AL-AHRAM on Military Debts, Trade With USSR

JN181255 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 16 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] *Al-Ahram*'s diplomatic editor has learned that Egypt and the Soviet Union are expected to sign an agreement that will finally settle Egypt's military debts to the Soviet Union. The agreement will provide for the cancellation of the interest levied on the military debts. The interest rate on the Soviet weapons is 2 percent. Egypt had stopped payment 10 years ago.

President Husni Mubarak held a meeting with Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi; Economy Minister Yusri Mustafa; Usamah al-Baz, director of the president's office for political affairs; and Salah Basyuni, Egyptian ambassador in Moscow yesterday. After the meeting, the economy minister said a long-term trade agreement for the next 5 years will be signed with the Soviets during his visit to the Soviet Union — he is scheduled to lead a delegation to Moscow tomorrow. The economy minister said during the meeting President Mubarak reviewed the topics that will be discussed in Moscow by the Egyptian delegation, which includes representatives of the various economic sectors. He said President Mubarak concentrated on the importance of expanding trade and introducing amendments into the trade protocol between the two countries. The Egyptian delegation will also discuss the development of the iron and steel plant and raising its production capacity to 2.5 million tons annually.

Ambassador Salih Basyuni said prior to his return to Cairo, he delivered a message from President Mubarak to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. He said he will leave Cairo today for Moscow to attend the Egyptian-Soviet talks in which the Egyptian side will be led by the economy minister, while the Soviet side will be led by Viktor Dementsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Presidium and chairman of the board of the USSR State Bank. Ambassador Basyuni said during the meeting, President Mubarak gave full instructions regarding all the issues to be discussed in the financial and economic talks and the talks on the military debts. The talks are scheduled to begin on Wednesday 18 March, and will also deal with adding new quotas to exports and imports, in addition to what was agreed upon in January 1987. He said the two sides will also sign a trade agreement that will provide for doubling the volume of trade between the two countries and introducing new Egyptian goods into the Soviet market in the next 5 years.

The Egyptian economy minister will inform the Soviet side of the new exchange rate for the Egyptian pound that will be applied to trade, and will thus lead to a great increase in the volume of imports and exports and will provide a reasonable amount of hard currency.

The *Al-Ahram* diplomatic editor has learned that the Soviet Union is considering cooperation with Egypt in the following four major sectors:

The industry sector. In particular, the Soviet Union is prepared to improve and develop the aluminium and coke plant and thermal and metal plants, as well as 25 other industries that need rehabilitation.

The energy sector, particularly the expansion of the thermal stations mentioned in the 5-year plan.

The equipment and spare parts sector.

Trade cooperation between the two countries, and increasing the value of the U.S. dollar and pound sterling against the Egyptian pound. The talks the two countries have held in the past few months have resulted in their agreement to resolve the differences between them, foremost of which is the increase in the accounting exchange rate of the pound sterling so that the new rate will be applied to trade transactions only without the debts being affected. That will lead to an increase of Egyptian exports to the Soviet Union.

Egypt formerly exported 120 million pounds worth of furniture, leather, clothes, and textiles as well as 683 tons of tricot to the Soviet Union. Egypt's exports to the Soviet Union diminished as a result of a reduction in the value of the dollar against the Egyptian pound. The Soviet Union exports to Egypt 500,000 tons of coal, 350,000 cubic meters of wood, one third of Egypt's needs in paper pulp, cardboard, carton paper, wood pulp, cement, glass, fertilizers, and frozen food.

Industry Minister Muhammad ʻAbd al-Wahhab yesterday attended the signing of two contracts between Egypt and the Soviet Union that provide for participation in the industrial expansion of the Al-Nasr Company for coke and primary chemicals, and the Egyptian Thermal Products Company in Hulwan. Investments provided by the two agreements total 106 million Egyptian pounds. The contracts were signed by ʻAdil al-Mawzi, chairman of the Al-Nasr Company; Shams al-Basyuni, chairman of the Egyptian Thermal Products Company; and Y. Kalashnikov, chairman of V/O Tyazhpromeksport. The contract agreement signed with the coke company provides for Soviet participation in the construction of a fourth battery in the company to increase production from 1.2 million tons of coke to 1.6 million tons annually. The battery's construction will be completed within 3 years and about 8 million pounds have been allocated to it. The second contract provides for Soviet participation in the expansion of the thermal plant so that its production capability will increase to 56,000 tons.

AL-AKHBAR Derides Syrian-Israeli Plan in Lebanon

JN171700 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 15 Mar 87 p 5

[Editorial: "Background of the Syrian-Israeli Plan"]

[Text] The secret plan Syria is implementing in cooperation with Israel and the Shiʻite Amal militias, which was revealed by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir ʻArafat the day before yesterday, is aimed at expelling 286,000 Palestinians from Lebanon to Jordan, tightening the Syrian-Shiʻite siege around the Palestinians in their stronghold in Sidon, and transforming it into another Shatila to inflict more tragedies on the Palestinian people. This secret plan was proceded by many steps.

Syria has been backing the Shiʻite militias for the past 2 yearsand extending huge quantities of military hardware to them, including Soviet-made T-54 tanks, to enable these militias to control West Beirut and to strike at all the forces that oppose this control, such as the pro-Palestinian forces. The Syrian forces are backing the Amal militias in their repeated and violent strikes at the Palestinian camps and in clamping atrocious sieges around the Palestinian refugees. Syria decided to intervene militarily after it found out that Shiʻite power had begun to wane in confronting the immense resistance of the leftist parties and militias. The Syrian intervention force has not even tried to lift the siege of the camps or lay a finger on those besieging them.

Thus, Syrian intentions have become clear. The only Palestinian stronghold left now is Sidon in the south, which worries the Israelis. Because we cannot overemphasize the extent of the Israeli-Syrian contacts and agreements, the PLO claims of a Syrian-Israeli plan to expel the Palestinians from Lebanon does not need any proof, given the nature of the Syrian regime and its machinations that prompt it to join hands with the devil to realize its objectives.

What is going on in Lebanon is an attempt to convince the Palestinians of the impossibility of their remaining there. This will serve the long-standing Syrian plot of controlling the fate of the Palestinians, the rights and problems of whom Syria is claiming to protect, a claim that is now utterly exposed.

Now that all the appeals directed at the Arab states to save the Palestinians in Lebanon have faded away for fear of Syria's reprisals — in the form of Syrian terrorist acts — we find it incumbent upon us to issue our appeal to the international community to take a more effective and positive attitude and stop the tragedy of the innocent Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

AL-AKHBAR Examines Recent Israeli 'Scandals'

NC170709 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar (MENA) — *Al-Akhbar* has stated that the series of scandals in Israel is still in progress. After the revelations on the scandal of the U.S. spy Jonathan Pollard, who was convicted in the biggest case of espionage against the United States and sentenced to life imprisonment, two new scandals, no less important than that involving Pollard, have surfaced.

In its commentary today, the paper says the first of these was an attempt by Israel officials to reach agreement with India for a joint strike at the Pakistani atomic reactor. India has refused to go along with the Israeli plan.

In the latest of these scandals, the paper goes on to say, which was reported in the British press, agents for Israeli intelligence, the Mossad, used forged British passports to facilitate their clandestine missions abroad. Eight British passports in envelopes addressed to an Israeli Embassy were found in a telephone booth in the FRG, and were handed over to British officials.

The paper concludes by saying these scandals are very significant, mainly because they show that Israeli officials do not hesitate to use methods of this kind. The paper says ways must be found of standing up to Israel and preventing it from continuing to employ such methods.

Romanian Cooperation Official Ends 4-Day Visit

NC190809 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Mar (MENA) — Traian Dudas, Romanian minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation, left Cairo this morning. He spent 4 days in Egypt at the invitation of Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, to attend the 20th Cairo International Fair.

During his stay, the Romanian official met Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning and international cooperation. During their discussion of various aspects of bilateral economic cooperation, Dudas expressed his country's readiness to participate in some of the projects specified in the next 5-year plan.

Traian Dudas also held talks with Dr Yusri Mustafa on ways to develop bilateral trade so that it will reach a volume of $1.5 billion by 1999 [as received]. The 1986 figure for Egyptian-Romanian trade is $0.9 billion.

In addition, the Romanian official met Mahir Abazah, electricity and energy minister; Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport, communications, and maritime transport; and Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, minister of housing, utilities, and new urban complexes. Bilateral ties and Romania's participation in several projects were discussed during these meetings.

Saudi Information Official Arrives in Cairo

NC182023 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1955 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 18 Mar (MENA) — Dr Fu'ad 'Abd al-Salam al-Farisi, under secretary at the Saudi Information Ministry, arrived in Cairo this evening for a visit that will last several days. During the visit, he will attend meetings of the Executive Council of the Islamic Broadcasting Stations Organization, due to begin in Cairo on Saturday and lasting 2 days.

The Saudi under secretary expressed happiness at visiting Cairo and attending the broadcasting conference. He noted the relations of amity and friendship between the Egypt and his country.

Defense Minister Views Cooperation With Zaire

JN130953 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 11 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and defense minister, and General (Kyana Baramuto), Zairian Civil Guard secretary general, yesterday discussed military cooperation between Egypt and Zaire.

Burundian Energy Minister Arrives for Visit

NC180644 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2305 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar (MENA) — Isidore Nyaboya, Burundian minister of energy, mines, and public works, arrived in Cairo this evening for a 6-day visit.

Upon arrival, the Burundian minister stated he will meet with the ministers of irrigation, electricity and energy, and petroleum, as well as the minister of state for foreign affairs. His talks, he added, will deal with bolstering cooperation between Egypt and Burundi, particularly in the fields of mining, tourism, and health. He also expressed his pleasure at visiting Egypt, noting that Egypt is regarded as one of the centers of culture and trade on the African Continent.

NPUG Leader Comments on Policies, Elections

PM171049 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 13 Mar 87 pp 32, 33

[Interview with Khalid Muhyi al-Din, secretary general of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG] Party, by Usamah 'Ajjaj in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] The Egyptian political scene is again stirring and the issue of the election of a new Egyptian parliament is "heating up" now that all the parties have almost finished formulating their views and drawing up their lists for the election battle that will chart the future of Egyptian political action for many years to come.

Al-Hawadith, through a long conversation with NPUG Secretary General Khalid Muhyi al-Din, tried to chart the movement of the Egyptian opposition parties. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: After 11 years of party experiment in Egypt and after one-party domination since the July 1952 revolution, the experiment has certainly produced both negative and positive points. How does the NPUG party view this situation?

Muhyi al-Din: It is natural for the experiment with a multiparty system in Egypt to have had positive and negative aspects. One of the positive things is that a multiplicity of parties in Egypt has become a reality, although it is still restricted, which prevents matters from returning to normal. This restriction leads to the impression that every party enjoys broad public support, whereas numerous parties would exist if there was freedom to form political parties, though only a small number of influential parties and political forces would remain. Moreover, the multiparty system is still constrained by laws on party creation and on the publication of party newspapers. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: Do you not believe it is ironical that the government should agree to something the opposition has been calling for since the seventies, namely, holding elections on the basis of lists, but that once the list method was adopted the opposition again began calling for elections on an individual basis?

Muhyi al-Din: When we called for elections on the basis of lists we also demanded that these lists not be party lists or subject to the 8 percent [minimum vote] limit, because the advantage of such elections is that they would make it possible to form alliances between more than two parties and to contest elections in some constituencies and not all. I believe that proportional, unconditional, and nonparty lists are the best system because not a single vote will be lost.

Al-Hawadith: Some people wager that the NPUG formula is about to collapse because the nationalist trend figures are leaving the party and the Nasirites wish to form a party of their own.

Muhyi al-Din: I do not agree with that. We never had the illusion that all the factions comprising the NPUG would remain in it forever. It is evident that the NPUG does not include all the Nasirites, for there are more of them outside it than inside. The same can be said about the Marxist faction, the religious trend, and even the nationalist trend. Experience has shown that it is difficult for a single faction to monopolize national action. The Nasirites have formed their own party but call for cooperation with the NPUG. The Marxists hold the same view. We believe that in spite of all these factions forming their own parties, those who believe in the unity of the Egyptian leftist forces in one single party will remain in the NPUG. If you are referring to Dr Yahya al-Jamal, who was deputy leader of the party, leaving the party as representative of the nationalist trend, I must point out that Dr Muhammad Khalafallah has remained in the NPUG. We believe that if a Nasirite party is formed some of the Nasirites will leave the NPUG, and so will the Marxists if they are allowed to form a party of their own. But the NPUG formula will remain one of grouping factions regardless of their ideological tendencies.

Al-Hawadith: Some people assert that Egyptian Communists are in control of matters and of administration in the NPUG.

Muhyi al-Din: This is not true. If we count the number of communists in the Central Secretariat, which is the highest NPUG authority and which approves all decisions, we find that the Marxist members are no more than 5 out of 18. The Central Secretariat membership includes non-Marxists such as Dr Khalafallah, Lutfi Wakid, Ramzi Fahim, Shaykh Mustafa 'Asi, 'Abd al-Ghaffar Shukr, Muhammad Khalil, and myself. The Marxists are Rif'at al-Sa'id, Abu al'Izz al-Hariri, 'Aryan Nasir, and Fu'ad Mursi. Remember that the activities of the Marxists give the impression that they are the dominating trend.

Al-Hawadith: Do you believe that the "religious trend" in Egypt is the trump card in any elections, which explains the flirtation going on between this trend and all the Egyptian parties?

Muhyi al-Din: There has been no "flirtation" between us and the religious trend and such a flirtation with the Al-Wafd Party has come to an end. Generally we are not against the religious trend, but we disagree with some of its interpretations, political views, and outlook on things. We defend its right to form its own independent party. I believe the coming elections will be the true test for the religious trend now that it has terminated its alliance with the Al-Wafd.

Al-Hawadith: Will the NPUG election program be different from its 1984 program?

Muhyi al-Din: Certainly the principal platform of the two programs will be the same. But there are certain issues that have come to the fore on the political scene that we find necessary to deal with. Examples are the increasingly acute economic crisis, employment for university graduates, housing, agriculture, and how to get out of the present economic predicament. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: Certainly there are areas of agreement and disagreement with the present regime. Where would you draw a line between the two?

Muhyi al-Din: Certainly there are differences in the socioeconomic area. But this does not prevent the existence of an area of agreement with the regime regarding such issues as the need to halt the Iraq-Iran war and to support Iraq. There is also agreement on the need to hold an internatinal conference [on the Middle East problem], although there are differences over some of the details. There is also agreement on the desire to overcome the economic crisis, but there is disagreement on the methods of doing so because the regime is seeking remedies while maintaining the present state of affairs. However, we are seeking to change it.

Atomic Official on Program Obstacles, Dangers

JN172130 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 15 Mar 87 p 29

[Interview with Dr Muhammad 'Izzat 'Abd al-'Aziz, chairman of the Egyptian Atomic Energy Commission, by correspondent Wadad Hijab in Cairo — date not given]

[Excerpts][Passage omitted][Hijab] What scientific and security threats does the Israeli nuclear superiority pose to the Arab region in particular, and to the Middle East in general?

['Abd al-'Aziz] The Israeli nuclear superiority is a long story because Israel planned for this superiority from the fifties and it did not do this alone. Major powers like France and the United States cooperated with it. The start was the establishment of the Dimona reactor, which is a natural uranium-fueled and heavy-water-moderated reactor for the production of plutonium, which is the basic material used as fuel for the nuclear bomb. Israel started on this project in the late fifties with 26 megawatts of power, increased to 50 megawatts, and recently was reported to have increased to 150 megawatts.

The idea behind upgrading the reactor's power is to increase the quantities of plutonium produced by the reactor so that Israel may be able to increase the nuclear heads or the nuclear bombs that the reactor can produce. The real threat posed to the Arab countries becomes evident when we realize that a state as small as Israel located in the midst of the Arab countries possesses the nuclear bomb. We must ask the following question: What are the Arab countries doing about it and what is their stand on this threat? We must reach a decision to confront this imminent danger.

[Hijab] But is the Israeli nuclear specter a fantasy or a reality? What are its limits and capabilities?

['Abd al-'Aziz] It has repeatedly been announced that Israel possesses nuclear bombs. All the signs and indications that we view as scientific facts make me believe Israel has nuclear weapons. No one knows the details about their size and how powerful they are. It is more than certain that Israel has a large reserve of these weapons, particularly if we realize it is working with experts from the United States and Western Europe, and it uses modern methods and sophisticated technology. One does not need to elaborate on or emphasize the perils that these weapons pose to Egyptian and Arab security. We must take these perils into consideration and ascribe them the importance they deserve. I have always stated that survival will be of the fittest and not the strongest. However, if we have to say this, we must remedy the defects that exist in our Arab ranks.

[Hijab] What are the real reasons that prevent Egypt from entering the era of nuclear reactors? Are they scientific, political, or economic reasons?

['Abd al-'Aziz] I do not believe there are scientific reasons preventing Egypt from entering this field for the simple reason that Egypt was on the verge of entering this field, as well as on the verge of concluding a contract for the establishment of a nuclear station. A declaration of intent was issued in this respect and we were on the verge of concluding a contract for the first nuclear station and the establishment of a unit for desalination and a unit for the production of nuclear fuel. This took place with the U.S. Westinghouse Company in the late sixties. We were qualified for this job. There is talk now about a nuclear station in Al-Dab'ah and many questions are being raised: Is Egypt qualified? Is it capable? Does it have the nuclear abilities that enable it to enter this field? There are pressures and plans to prevent Egypt from entering this field. That's where politics come in. Some parties that are known to us are raising such questions and laying on political pressures because it displeases them to see Egypt become a pioneer in this field. These parties do not want Egypt to become a nuclear state. There is no time to enter into the details of all this now. All that we can say is that every time Egypt comes closer to reaching a decision, it is faced with heavy pressures to prevent it from making the decision. An example of this was when we tried to sign an agreement for the establishment of a nuclear station a few years ago. The World Bank announced that Egypt's economy was collapsing and that Egypt therefore could not meet its obligations with respect to this huge project. The World Bank retracted its stand after the political leadership intervened and announced that Egypt's economy was sound and that Egypt could sign an agreement for this nuclear station.

Despite the big capital needed for this project, the economic difficulties do not constitute an obstacle. If we compare the nuclear station to the traditional stations in terms of economic advantage, taking into consideration the capital and the fuel costs throughout the age of the station, we will find that nuclear stations are cheaper than the traditional ones that use petroleum and coal. This is based on scientific facts and studies known by the entire world. For example, the fuel costs in nuclear stations for 30 years are estimated at $30 million. Meanwhile, the cost of coal during the same period is estimated at between $200 to $250 million. If we consider a station of 30 or 40 years old we will find a big difference in operating costs between the two stations. Therefore, there is no problem in terms of economic costs. Egypt needs energy, whether nuclear or nonnuclear. Because nuclear energy is cheaper in the long run, we therefore should obtain it.

[Hijab] To what extent can the Egyptian expertise contribute to establishing, operating, and maintaining nuclear reactors?

['Abd al-'Aziz] The Egyptian reactor has been operating for 30 years. No radiation leakage or any event occurred during this time. Egyptian experts have operated this reactor throughout this period with high efficiency. In addition to the existence of trained Egyptian cadres and more than 3,000 scientists, experts, and technicians in the Atomic Energy Commission, our experience in building and operating nuclear reactors is based on the existence of a broad industrial base in Egypt. We can largely contribute to building reactor parts, particularly the traditional ones such as civil works, ventilation components, and electrical parts. We have much experience acquired from establishing the electric power stations and the High Dam station. Consequently, the national contribution could play a big role in building, operating, and maintaining nuclear stations. [passage omitted]

[Hijab] What is the opinion of the Atomic Energy Commission on nuclear powered ships passing through the Suez Canal?

['Abd al-'Aziz] The scientific and technical opinion of the commission is not to allow the passage of those ships through the Suez Canal at all. We have said this many times and we reiterate it. The dangers that might result from the passage of these ships are different from the dangers of the nuclear reactors. The reactors are safe and there might be no danger. However, as a general principle there is no technology without danger. In the case of a moving reactor or the existence of a reactor on a ship, dangers emerge from the possibility of a collision. However, in light of the natural protection and control, the existence of a reactor in a building makes it safer. A reactor transitting the Suez Canal might greatly endanger the canal. The water might be polluted, navigation might be halted, and the entire region might be contaminated even if the danger rate is as little as 1 to 100 million. This rate, which appears very small, might expose us to dangers whose consequences cannot be endured. Now we supervise and control the radioactive elements using the Suez Canal. In these cases the Suez Canal Commission contacts us and we dispatch protection experts to escort these ships to be reassured of radiation levels and of the safety of the source of radiation as well as of the precautionary measures taken. The presence of the Atomic Energy Commission experts is very important when nuclear ships pass through the Suez Canal. [passage omitted]

Communique Notes 3 Attacks on Maritime Targets

JN181723 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Communique No 2,607 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 18 March 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The victorious Iraqi forces have continued the harvest of the empty Khomeyniite heads, imposing their absolute control over all areas of operations. The following is a summary of the activities of last night and today:

1. To prevent the tyrant Iranian rulers from continuing their injustice and to deprive them of their oil resources, which they use for their evil purposes of carrying out aggression against our country, the planes of our gigantic Air Force at 2230 [1930 GMT on 17 March] and at 0950 today carried out successful raids on two maritime targets near the Iranian coast. The first target was large, and the second was very large. Our planes dealt the two targets accurate and effective blows.

Our aircraft launched a raid on a third large maritime target near the Iranian coast at 1550 today, delivering an accurate and effective blow. All our planes then returned safely to base.

2. Through concentrated blows by artillery, tanks, and mortars, as well as through other capable activities, our troops in the VII Army Corps sector continued their heroic confrontation of the evil aggressors. Our forces were able to confuse the enemy and to silence a number of its sources of fire. They also inflicted losses in personnel and equipment on the enemy, blew up nine ammunition dumps, destroyed two big vehicles and one shovel [proceding word in English], and set enemy positions on fire.

3. Our brave men in the III Army Corps sector continued to direct their violent fire at the enemy assembly points opposite our units and at the enemy gun emplacements and roads, inflicting new losses on the scoundrels' ranks and equipment. They also destroyed four shovels and several infantry positions.

4. One of our units in the I Army Corps northern sector attacked an enemy group, killed and wounded a number of them, and forced the rest to flee. In another area, three enemy personnel were killed.

5. In the II Army Corps central sector one enemy troop was killed, and one infantry position, one observation post, and two ammunition dumps were destroyed.

6. The tyrant Khomeyniite clique shelled residential areas in the steadfast city of Basra, damaging civilian property.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 March 1987

Ramadan Discusses Results of Recent Fighting

NC182234 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Interview with Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member, first deputy prime minister, and commander in chief of the Popular Army, by Imad 'Abd al-Tawwab, Cairo Radio correspondent, in Baghdad; date not given — recorded]

[Excerpt] [Al-Tawwab] First we welcome Your Excellency. Let us begin with developments in the Iraq-Iran war following the failure of the Iranian aggression east of Basra and the collapse of the so-called Iranian year of resolution.

[Ramadan] We must explain at the outset what Khomeyni and the Iranian rulers meant by the year of resolution. Their primary goal was to occupy all of Basra and threaten the Gulf states, particularly Kuwait. Fighters and volunteers have been mobilized more than once in the past year. The results of the battles since 25 December 1986 are an indication of the total failure to fulfill the aim behind the slogan. Moreover, we can say the Iraqi forces all along the front, particularly in the area east of Basra, are in peak condition. Their equipment and strength have been increased since the beginning of these battles. Therefore, we believe the impact of the next stage will be felt by the Iranian side both in terms of losses and in the effect these battles will have on the internal political situation in Iran.

[Al-Tawwab] The recent battles, not the first of their kind, may have frightened some of the brothers who empathize with Iraq and keep abreast of events in this fraternal country, particularly as the battles took place near Basra. At any rate, the borders are close. What can you tell us about these developments?

[Ramadan] I am not surprised by, nor do I resent, the concern of these brothers and friends. The nature of the plot against Iraq and the collaboration of some Arab traitors has convinced them that the situation is grave, now that they have directly or indirectly become aware of the preparations of the Iranians and their allies. Consequently, we consider their concern legitimate. However, we see no further justification for concern after these recent results. We hope these results will lead to more division and contradiction within Iran. They should lead to more unity and sound patriotic stands within Arab ranks. It is clear the object of this aggression is to harm the Arab nation, not only Iraq.

[Al-Tawwab] I will ask you, in your capacity as the commander in chief of the Popular Army, a frank question. How did Iraq triumph over the superior Iranian concentration of forces that the Iranian regime sent to more than one front, and how does this affect the Iraqi volunteers and Popular Army?

[Ramadan] There are several reasons. The human factor is Iraq's main advantage. What is important is that the Iraqi Army and people believe they are defending their land. They also understand the intentions of the Iranian rulers, who want to subdue and enslave them. Under the circumstances, our defense is legal. The Iranian aim is an expansionist one and [words indistinct]. We believe the times have transcended this, despite the religious slogan the Iranian rulers use to mask their intentions. These slogans have been unmasked and exposed. [passage omitted]

Party Meeting Approves Draft Law on Workers

JN181912 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Mar (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has presided over a joint RCC and Ba'th Party Regional Command meeting.

The meeting was attended by the chief of the president's office; the ministers of justice, labor and social affairs, finance, oil, heavy industry, and industry; and the president's secretary.

The conferees discussed and approved the suggested draft law on turning workers in the state departments and in the socialist sector into [government] employees.

Foreign Ministry Secretary Meets U.S. Officials

JN181139 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Amman — Foreign Ministry Secretary General Taysir Tuqan met today with Shaw Smith, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for international organizations affairs; and Robert Immerman, minister plenipotentiary at the U.S. permanent UN mission, who are currently visiting Jordan.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the most important topics under discussion at the United Nations, foremost being the Middle East issue and the efforts to hold an international conference for peace under UN auspices. They also discussed the Iraq-Iran war and the UN secretary general's efforts to achieve a peaceful solution to that conflict.

Soviet African Institute Official Arrives

JN181040 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Mar 87 p 3

[Text] Aleksey Vasiliyev, deputy director of the African Institute in the USSR Academy of Sciences in Moscow, arrived in Amman last night on a 1-week visit at the invitation of the University of Jordan. He will deliver a lecture entitled "Soviet Policy in the Middle East" at the University of Jordan on Sunday evening.

French Foreign Minister's Visit Postponed

JN181956 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] The visit to Jordan by French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond, which was scheduled to begin tomorrow, has been postponed to a later date because of the French foreign minister's obligation to stay in Paris to follow up the issue of the French hostages in Beirut. The Jordanian and French sides will agree on a new date for the French minister's visit to Jordan.

Al-Rifa'i Meets West Bank Agricultural Group

JN181306 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received a delegation at his office today representing the officials in charge of the agricultural marketing cooperative societies in the occupied West Bank.

The delegation thanked the prime minister for the response and interest shown by the various ministries, government corporations, and departments, especially regarding the achievement of a balanced flow of their agricultural products from the West Bank to the Kingdom's markets for export.

The prime minister welcomed the delegation, which represents more than 40,000 cooperative members. He affirmed the government's willingness to assist them and to study the possibility of meeting their requirements in light of the need to improve marketing conditions and to draw up production programs to achieve the expansion and development of agricultural production, thus satisfying the needs of domestic and foreign consumers.

The meeting was attended by Marwan Dudin, minister of the occupied territories affairs; Muraywid al-Tal, director general of the Jordanian Cooperative Organization; Tahsin al-Faris, Niqula 'Aqil, Fayyad Jarrar, and Ziyad Yunis, members of the House of Representatives; and the president and managers of the marketing societies in Nabulus, Hebron, Jericho, Janin, Tul Karm, Ramallah, and Salfit.

Dudin Meets Belgian Foreign Ministry Official

JN181739 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Amman — Marwan Dudin, minister of occupied territories affairs, today received (Eric Cobia), director of the Middle East department at the Belgian Foreign Ministry representing his country's foreign minister, who is the chairman of the current EC session.

During the meeting, Dudin reviewed the daily suffering of the people living in the occupied territories as a result of the continuing Israeli occupation. They also discussed the government's socioeconomic development plan to reinforce the steadfastness of the kinfolk on their land and property vis-a-vis the pressure of the Zionist occupation authorities and the Israeli settlers.

They also reviewed the steps taken in the Middle East peace process, the positions of the sides concerned in the Arab-Israeli dispute, and the European role in energizing the peace process in the Middle East by holding the Middle East peace conference.

The minister also confirmed Jordan's constant position on a just and comprehensive peace based on Israel's withdrawal from all the Arab territories it occupied in 1967 by holding an international Middle East peace conference to be attended by all the sides concerned and the five UN Security Council members and in light of UN Resolution No 242.

Iranian Embassy Responds to Report on Waite

NC191432 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] The Iranian Embassy in Beirut has declared it is not concerned about information published about the Iranian Embassy in Lebanon. A Soviet newspaper recently reported that Terry Waite, the emissary of the archbishop of Canterbury, is being detained in the Iranian Embassy in Lebanon.

Embassy Issues Statement on 4 Iranian Hostages

NC191213 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Statement issued by the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Beirut on 19 March — read by announcer]

[Text] The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Beirut welcomes the willingness of Anglican Church representatives to mediate with Christians for the release of four Iranian diplomats who have been detained for 4 years. The embassy expresses its extreme gratification at the initiation of these moves, though they are belated. It renews its call to the Lebanese Government and all parties concerned to intercede in this issue and end the stalemate.

On this occasion we recall that the Islamic Republic of Iran was the first to suffer from the plague of kidnapping and that the international news media, which report daily on the hostages and detainees of other countries, never mention Mohsen al-Musavi, the charge d'affaires, or three of his aides. This affirms the fact that threats to the lives of hostages and kidnapees of the Third World prompt no action [words indistinct] as hostages.

As to the details of this kidnapping, the brother diplomats were traveling, under the protection of Lebanese police, from Tripoli to Beirut through the Al-Barbarah checkpoint. Their convoy was stopped by gunmen, who asked the Lebanese policemen to leave, and the brother diplomats were detained and taken to an unknown destination in [words indistinct].

The embassy has exerted strenuous efforts for 4 years with the parties concerned to bring about the release of the brothers, but to no avail. [Words indistinct] ask the kidnappers to use reason, respond, and return these diplomats to their families.

Hizballah 'Representative' Says No Hostages Held

PM171511 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 9 Mar 87 pp 1, 20

[Unidentified *Keyhan* correspondent untitled interview with unnamed Hizballah representative, in Bandar 'Abbas; date not given]

[Text] The representative of Lebanon's Hizballah in Iran took part in an interview with *Keyhan*'s correspondent in Bandar 'Abbas. He welcomed the stance taken by officials of the Islamic Republic with regard to the killing of Hizballah forces in West Beirut. He said: The announcement of Iran's position showed that the issue of the Hizballah in Lebanon is not a fringe matter but rather something basic and strategic. On the basis on this, Syria has reevaluated the situation in Lebanon.

The Lebanese Hizballah representative said: Damascus did not expect Iran to adopt such an attitude, and it did not believe the issue would affect its relations with Iran.

The Hizballah official is in Bandar 'Abbas to take part in memorial services in that city for Hizballah martyrs. With regard to the recent killings he said: In our previous talks with Damascus, we had stressed that such clashes should not take place. But then we were faced with this debacle all of a sudden.

He added: One cannot consider the Hizballah killings an accident or a mistake. The Muslim brothers and sisters have faced other incidents before. Brothers have been shot at without prior warning, and all this has been done to create fear and to break their fighting spirit.

The Hizballah representative then commented on his organization's attitude toward the security plan for West Beirut. He said: We do not want to put obstacles in the way of security for Beirut. Even after the clashes between Amal and the Communist Party, we announced we would hand over the (Fath Allah) base to the Syrian troops. But we are worried now, and we wonder why the Syrians are thinking about slowing down the Hizballah movement in Lebanon.

If Damascus does not wish to stop the Islamic movement, then it should identify those elements responsible for the Hizballah killings. It should also stop attacking the centers of the Lebanese jihad. This would prove its goodwill.

He then commented on Syria's new efforts to create accord among the Lebanese factions. He said: We believe that any plan that does not accept struggle against Israel and does not guarantee the liberation of Palestine will fail.

The Hizballah representative then answered *Keyhan*'s question on the effects of the recent killings on the Lebanese political forces. He said: We expected all political groups in Lebanon to condemn the killings, especially because an Amal member was killed in the disaster. But, unfortunately, there has been no word of regret or sympathy from Amal or any other group in this connection.

He then answered *Keyhan's* last question and added: We are not holding any hostages. But there is no doubt the Lebanese who have taken some Germans have special goals. They have their own views on the film shown on West German television insulting things holy to the Islamic revolution. But we have no link with the matter of hostage-taking, and any decisions about the hostages will be up to those who are holding them.

Birri Sees 'Chance' for Normandin Release

NC181553 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Minister Nabih Birri has announced that a chance for Jean-Louis Normandin's release exists, despite the fact that his case is complicated by the involvement of other countries.

At a news conference during which Saudi diplomat Bakr al-Damanhuri, released after being detained for 66 days following his abduction in West Beirut, was presented to the public, Birri said: We did our utmost to obtain the release of the cultural attache at the Saudi Embassy in Beirut, and we will do our utmost to see that the other hostages are released.

Birri refused to say where Al-Damanhuri had been held, saying secrecy is necessary if the other hostages are to be rescued. Nor did he reveal the identity of the party that had been detaining the Saudi diplomat.

In response to a question, the Amal leader held the media responsible for the delay in Terry Waite's release, which should have taken place in February, according to Birri.

Birri concluded by inviting embassy personnel and journalists to return to West Beirut. He expressed hope that the regrettable habit of abducting people will end.

Al-Damanhuri appeared to be in good health but was in an emotional state. He said: I feel happy to be free after 66 days. [passage omitted]

Released Saudi on Kidnappers' Questioning

NC190540 Paris AFP in English 0429 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Beirut, March 19 (AFP) — The men who held Saudi diplomat Bakr al-Damanhuri until his release Wednesday questioned him constantly about the fate of Nasir Sa'id, one of the most prominent opposition figures in Saudi Arabia, Mr. al-Damanhuri told newsmen.

Mr. al-Damanhuri, a cultural attache at his country's Beirut embassy, was released after 66 days in captivity. He failed to identify his kidnappers when questioned at a press conference in the home of Shi'ite leader Nabih Birri.

"They treated me like a prisoner, interrogating me and asking me what had happened to Nasir Sa'id, accusing me of being party to his arrest and his handover to the Saudi authorities," he said.

Nasir Sa'id, who advocated replacing the Saudi monarchy by a democratic republic, lived in West Beirut until he disappeared in December 1979, shortly after distributing leaflets supporting a fundamentalist uprising in the holy Islamic city of Mecca, which is in Saudi Arabia.

He was kidnapped at Al-Hamra' by armed men and is alleged to have been taken back to Saudi Arabia in a diplomatic bag, although the Saudi authorities have always denied this.

Mr. Sa'id, who was about 50 when he was kidnapped, had previously written several books criticising the Saudi regime. Tarikh Al Sa'ud (history of the Sa'ud family) which was published in Beirut after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, was reportedly burned at the printers.

Syrian Intelligence Chief Kan'an on Situation

PM190943 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 18-24 Mar 87 p 14,15

[Interview with Brigadier Ghazi Kan'an, Syrian intelligence chief in Beirut, by Ruba Kabbarah in Lebanon; date not given]

[Excerpt] [introductory passage omitted] [Kabbarah] Did the Syrian leadership have a prior decision to intervene in Beirut, and what, in your opinion, would have happened had the Syrian forces not intervened?

[Kan'an] There were several parties in Beirut directly responsible for security in the city but they were unable to bring the situation under control and to stop attacks on civilians. These parties used to agree on handing over the maintenance of security to the legitimate forces in the area but such agreements were never actually put into effect. This was followed by a situation in which Syrian assistance [to maintain security] was given through the deployment of Syrian observers. Nevertheless, this did not prevent the situation from exploding, and fighting erupted between the allies in Beirut. I personally came to Beirut and tried to help them take control of the situation in the field, but the situation was becoming more explosive. To take control, a security force superior to all the forces in the field became necessary. Thus a request [for the dispatch of forces] was made and the response was forthcoming. Therefore we had not envisioned entering Beirut before. When I came to Beirut 4 days before the Syrian entry (22 February), the idea of entering Beirut was not in the cards. But when I experienced the predicament of the inhabitants of Beirut and heard what I heard and saw what I saw I sent the command a telegram saying: "We Syrians are in the streets, separating the fighters, but the existing force is in no way sufficient to put an end to the fighting. Our withdrawal would mean Beirut and its people going up in flames."

[Kabbarah] The European countries seemed generally approving, though conditionally, of the Syrian forces' entry. What, in your opinion, would follow entry into West Beirut?

[Kan'an] If you were to see a man drowning you would immediately throw yourself in to rescue him even though you may not know him. How then should we act when we consider the Lebanese people our people? There is no solution in Lebanon except through national and balanced reconciliation. What is needed is a Lebanese state capable of protecting and rescuing its own people.

[Kabbarah] Do you believe a political solution should come about before the security situation is resolved, or will you impose security regardless of the political conditions?

[Kan'an] This is a Lebanese matter. There is a plan that was proposed by those in control in East Beirut, to which the response was a different plan submitted by the rest of the parties. There is Syrian mediation with the aim of giving impetus to a solution. We pray to God that we will succeed. We have come to Beirut because it has become a battlefield. We have come with instructions to halt the fighting and to prevent any similar situation developing in the future. What comes next? Everything will be done in due course. Agreement means finding a solution, and a dialogue is currently taking place in Syria in this regard.

[Kabbarah] You are playing a direct role in the negotiations taking place in Damascus and attending all the sessions of talks. What is your impression regarding the present progress in these negotiations?

[Kan'an] I participate in the negotiations because I am present in the field and fully aware of the picture with respect to security and the nature of the expected solution.

[Kabbarah] Has there been any progress so far?

[Kan'an] We hope so.

[Kabbarah] What are the obstacles blocking the negotiations?

[Kan'an] There are two basic subjects: First, participation [in government] so that the cabinet will be the source of decision-making and, second, the abolition of political sectarianism. The latter has been agreed upon, but there disagreement remains over whether this should be linked to a specific period of time or left open subject to circumstances.

[Kabbarah] With regard to the question of the Syrian forces entering the southern suburbs: Will it be postponed until a political solution is reached?

[Kan'an] This subject has not been discussed with the Lebanese leaderships in Damascus. Only the question of Beirut has been taken into consideration because it is the area where fighting is taking place. The request for the entry of Syrian forces concerned Beirut only. There was no talk about the southern suburbs because there is no problem there.

[Kabbarah] But you previously said everything will be done in due course. As a military man, is it your view that the establishment of security in West Beirut should be followed by the imlplementation of a security plan for the southern suburbs?

[Kan'an] There are militias in all the Lebanese arenas, in East Beirut, in the southern suburbs, and in the mountain area. We have expelled the militias from West Beirut because they were fighting. In the places where the Syrian forces are deployed we cannot allow the stockpiling of arms because the security of the Lebanese citizen as well as that of our forces is at stake. With regard to the question of militias in the rest of the areas, this will be tackled together with the political solution. I am amazed by this focus on the southern suburbs. When the question of West Beirut was brought up the question of the southern suburbs was not raised, nor was that of the rest of the areas.

[Kabbarah] The voices of the extremists groups (Hizballah) have once again been raised against the Syrian initiative. In your opinion, could this lead to the Syrian endeavors being impeded or to tension being created in relations between Syria and Iran?

[Kan'an] This does not concern us. What concerns us is our nationalist convictions. This matter does not hinder the progress of a solution. The solution will come like a deluge; it will overpower all the hindrances. The Syrian initiative is a nationalist one, and any voice raised against it will be a discordant voice that does not care for the Lebanese interest. We do not care for anything that is contrary to this interest.

[Kabbarah] The arrival of Iranian Ambassador Ahmad Dastmalchian in Beirut was accompanied by great celebrations. Did you meet with him?

[Kan'an] I did not follow this subject because it does not concern me. I will not meet with anybody that does not concern me. My only concern is work.

[Kabbarah] How do you view the future of the security plan in West Beirut if it is not followed by other steps and if there is a delay in reaching a political solution?

[Kan'an] I am satisfied with the plan. There is no problem in my estimation. If certain individual problems occur then we will look into the way of solving them when they occur. This is what we are doing. With regard to the crossing points [in Beirut], there are talks with the other party [not further specified] and there is an idea that the Lebanese Army should assume control of these points. This would stop the fighting and contribute to easing the situation. I believe the size of the Syrian forces in Beirut, which is roughly 10,000, is sufficient to maintain control of the security situation regardless of how long a solution is delayed.

[Kabbarah] What about the Palestinian camps? Will the solution of their problem have to wait for a general political solution?

[Kan'an] There will be a partial solution for the camps that precedes the general solution. We are in contact with the PNSF to ensure Palestinian withdrawal from eastern Sidon. When this takes place the militias will be withdrawn from around all the camps whether in Beirut or in the south.

[Kabbarah] President Mitterrand recently said Syria has done a great deal to solve the hostage problem. Do you believe results will be reached soon?

[Kan'an] The hostage question is a humanitarian one with which we generally sympathize. The French Government is well aware of this fact. We have tried previously and we are trying today and we will try tomorrow. We hope to reach a solution that would preserve the life of the hostages and end their problem.

[Kabbarah] It has been rumored that the four American hostages are in Syrian hands. What, in your opinion, is the reason for these rumors?

[Kan'an] When someone wants something he spreads rumors about it because this gives him satisfaction. We would have immediately announced had they been with us.

[Kabbarah] You have invited the embassies and foreigners to return to Beirut, and some of them have in fact returned. Do you believe the situation in West Beirut is secure enough to make such an invitation?

[Kan'an] I have said the security situation in Lebanon has become excellent. The situation that existed before was abnormal and it has now returned to normal.

Hizballah, Hashim Reportedly Control Zighdraya

NC181823 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Military sources in the south have denied reports circulating that Amal groups have taken up positions in Zighdraya which had been evacuated earlier by the Palestinians. The sources said the town is currently under the control of Hizballah and Hasan Hashim [leader of a dissident movement within Amal] supporters. They added the Palestinians have withdrawn to the outskirts of town. The sources said complete field coordination exists between Hizballah and Hasan Hashim.

Meanwhile, Birri loyalists within Amal control only a small part of Maghdushah and are surrounded by Hizballah members and Hasan Hashim's supporters.

Palestinian Killed When Supply Convoy Attacked

NC181607 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Palestinian Sadiq al-Muthni was killed and another Palestinian wounded while an attempt was being made to send supplies into the Shatila camp under the supervision of Syrian observers. A PFLP spokesman has accused Amal of firing machine gun bursts at the truck brought into the camp and at the Palestinian citizens trying to unload it. The shots hit the two Palestinians, and the truck caught fire.

This incident was followed by a bout of shelling with 60-mm mortars and RPG-7's. Machine gun bursts and sniper fire have also been reported around the Burj al-Barajinah camp combat lines.

The PFLP spokesman warned Amal not to resort again to a starvation siege and urged Syria to halt Amal actions, replacing its forces with Syrians.

Official security sources had confirmed earlier that the Palestinians had withdrawn completely from Zighdraya [in southern Lebanon]. The sources noted that Amal had entered the town and declared it a military zone. Amal members took up combat positions there.

Tension continues east of Sidon and its environs after fighting between Amal and the Palestinians.

Negotiating Delegation Leaves for Damascus Talks

NC190833 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] The Lebanese negotiating delegation left for Damascus this morning for the ninth round of Lebanese-Syrian talks. Political circles attach great importance to the outcome of this session, in the hope it will correct the course of the talks, given the ongoing political argument over the proposals raised at the eighth round, which have prompted various reactions.

Iranian Embassy Moves to Southern Suburb

NC181813 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] The Iranian Embassy has moved its headquarters back to its old building in the Bi'r al-Hasan area [in the southern suburb] after vacating its headquarters in Corniche al-Mazra'ah [in West Beirut]. The new Iranian ambassador, who has been in Beirut for more than 2 weeks, has not yet presented his credentials, according to diplomatic custom and the Geneva agreement.

Sham'un Urges Government To Meet or Resign

NC181152 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Upon emerging from the Lebanese Front meeting today, former President Sham'un stated that the situation regarding the government is abnormal. The government should either meet or another government should be formed to make decisions. Solutions cannot be solved without cabinet meetings, he added. [passage omitted]

Damascus Views U.S. 'Scandals,' Peace Conference

JN161607 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1135 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] The series of scandals in the United States has not yet ended. The U.S. and world public learns new details everyday about the scandals and those involved in them and about the political and ethical dimensions of these scandals which give a picture of the nature of the U.S. political system, its rottenness, and the continued violations of the outwardly sparkling facade of U.S. democracy, institutions, freedoms, and parliamentary surveillance of the executive authority. World news media observers are unanimous that the current major scandal is one of the most embarrassing deadlocks for both the U.S. rulers and people.

The strong repercussions from the scandals have fragmented President Reagan's administration, making it difficult for it to maneuver. It has weakened President Reagan more than ever before and made him perhaps the weakest president in U.S. history, more than former President Nixon at the time of the Watergate scandal. Many in Washington expect the U.S. Administration to be semiparalyzed and unable to make key decisions during the months before the next U.S. presidential election is held.

However, U.S. policymakers and those responsible for public relations and psychological warfare in Washington are trying, among other things, to divert public attention from the scandals by talking about peace in the Middle East, the U.S. role in activating the peace process, and the possibility of an international conference. They want to depict President Reagan, whose image has been sullied, as being capable of achieving his goals abroad.

In addition to the fact Reagan is depicted as being inclined toward holding discussions with the Soviet Union to reach comprehensive or partial agreements on disarmament, an attempt is being made to depict President Reagan as being the initiator of the call for an international Middle East peace conference. The truth is that this international peace conference is not a U.S. idea, an initiative by President Reagan, or a framework proposed by the U.S. Administration. There is a UN resolution calling for this conference within the framework and under the aegis of the United Nations.

It was the United States that resisted the idea of an international conference, conspired against it, and sided with Israel to prevent the convocation of such a conference, in order to exert pressure on the Arabs and to force them to hold direct capitulatory negotiations with Israel, which rebels against the international community and rejects the UN resolutions on Palestine and the Middle East.

President Reagan's administration, whose declared proposals in September 1982 made no reference to an international conference, will not be able to exploit the idea of an international conference to cleanse its reputation of the dirt of successive scandals nor can it use this idea for its transient propagandist purposes. The owners of the just cause in the region will not allow the U.S. Administration to trade on the idea of holding the conference, distort this idea, or block the way for the real conference which is needed.

The series of scandals in Washington, including the scandal of U.S. Jewish spy Jonathan Pollard who betrayed his country for the sake of Israel and who announced that his and his wife's primary loyalty is toward Israel, and the subsequent defeatist stands toward Israel rob the United States of its ability to be an active element in the real peace process and of its qualifications to be an honest mediator and just arbiter. It is at best a tool serving Israel's policy in the Middle East. This fact makes the United States a party to the conflict — a party siding with Israel against the Arabs and the United Nations.

Finance Minister, Others Discuss Draft Budget

JN170937 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] The People's Assembly met this evening under its speaker, Mahmud al-Zu'bi, with Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm and cabinet ministers in attendance. The Assembly initially heard the government statement on the state budget for 1987 read by Finance Minister Dr Qahtan al-Suyufi. The statement said the 1987 draft budget was prepared after comprehensive, realistic studies of all areas involving all departments concerned according to a realistic, scientific approach based — as much as possible — on methods of financial anaylsis to assess the 1986 results and to examine the current state of affairs to use them in determining requirements and meeting aspirations.

The finance minister said the budget figures reflect the aspirations of the Syrian Arab Republic, and as the annual financial plan, it reflects the will of the country to pursue the march of development, building, and securing defense requirements in keeping with resolutions of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party congresses and directives of the secretary general of the party, struggler President Hafiz al-Asad.

Dr al-Suyufi outlined the key objectives of the budget in the economic and financial areas, specifically to increase reliance on local resources, curb current spending, and match investment spending with the production, services, and basic goals set in the economic and social development plan. The bnudget's key objectives include achieving a balance between available money and commodities, curbing inflation, and using financial and monetary machinery to regulate economic development.

The minister's statement featured the principles that determined current spending allocations, rationalized spending, met the national and pan-Arab security needs in keeping with Syria's role in steadfastness and liberation, devoted the requisite allocations to other basic services, and stabilized commodity prices to ease the burden on low-income groups. The budget also contained the criteria applied in determining allocations for investment spending based on an evaluation of the current state of the economy, the development of indigenous resources, and the operational standing of 1986 investment projects.

Dr al-Suyufi pointed out that the 1987 draft budget appropriations are 41.703 billion Syrian pounds, of which 34.195 billion pounds was earmarked for current operations and 17.508 billion pounds for investment projects. This year's overall budget is less than last year's by 4.87 percent, representing the spending cutback. A comparison with last year's budget also shows that this year's budget allocations were reached more realistically with the amount of local resources in keeping with sector goals, especially those involving services.

The minister of finance concluded the government statement on the 1987 budget by noting the positive development in elements of the structural fabric of the national economy with a view to controlling resources and directing them according to the preset schedule, thus emphasizing self-reliance, affirming our national economy's capacity to overcome obstacles obstructing the process of building and development, and boosting confidence in the country's growth potential. He said the government is doing all in its power to implement the economic and social goals set out in this budget, and looks with optimism to the hard work of productive workers and peasants who, by virtue of their energy, are realizing achievements and boosting national production to make the point that producers have the upper hand in the Ba'th Party state, where resources and capabilities are mobilized to meet development requirements and secure the basic needs of the masses, and bolster the ingredients of the steadfastness of our people, who have resolved to stand up to all Zionist schemes and imperialist plots and stand firm in all pan-Arab battles holding aloft the banners of unity, freedom, and socialism and led by President Hafiz al-Asad.

Commenting on the government's financial statement, Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm emphasized to the Assembly the importance of self-reliance and local resources in drawing up the general state budget. The government, he said, has expanded services and public utilities which should produce economic benefits in the future. Dr al-Kasm referred to the enormous burden the country is carrying in this stage and the economic pressure on Syria due to its constant, principled stands. Despite this, the prime minister added, the measures taken by the government to confront these pressures have succeeded in foiling their aims of impeding the march and struggle of Syria to realize its pan-Arab objectives and to build an economic base and social development. These measures include an austerity program, curbing spending and waste, fully utilizing local resources, producing many imported articles locally to save hard currency, and securing necessities for the public as well as for the industrial and agricultural sectors.

The prime minister touched on the strain placed on Syria to secure defenses not only for itself but also on behalf of the entire Arab nation.

Dr al-Kasm then discussed the field of medicine and the new medical policy charted by the Higher Health Council. Its positive impact, he added, will soon be felt by the general public and the country's economy.

On agriculture, Dr al-Kasm discussed production requirements and the government's plans in this regard, especially concerning fertilizers, tractors, pesticides, seeds, and marketing. The prime minister declared that mistakes and dereliction of duty must be pinpointed and offenders called to account in all areas of work and production.

Further Discussion of Budget

JN190912 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] The People's Assembly held a session this evening under Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi and in the presence of Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and a number of ministers.

At the beginning of the session, the Assembly members continued to discuss the finance minister's statement on the draft law of the state general budget. The Assembly members spoke on issues related to the Al-Ghab area and to its recent flooding by the heavy rains.

The Assembly members also spoke about supply issues. They emphasized the need to safeguard and protect the gains made by the government officials through the draft law on increasing their salaries. They also spoke on issues related to taxation legislation and allowing farmers to repay their debts in installments.

The finance minister answered questions raised by Assembly members. The deputy prime minister for economic affairs then spoke. He promised to request a meeting of the economic ministerial committee tomorrow. The competent committee members, he said, will visit Al-Ghab to acquaint themselves with the realities of the situation there to take drastic measures that will help in arriving at the proper solutions to the problems faced by this area. Dr Yasin welcomed the participation of Assembly members in the works of this committee.

He then spoke in detail about the government's eagerness to secure foodstuff supplies for the citizens. He reiterated that the subsidies granted to certain commodities will not be lifted or reduced despite the fact that many foodstuff supplies are sold at less than cost.

The deputy prime minister for economic affairs added that many other supply items, even the unrationed and nonsubsidized materials, the prices of which were raised, are being sold at cost, because the government wants prices to equal the materials' costs.

Dr Yasin emphasized that there has been no change in tax deductions, that no new tax deductions will be introduced, and that the government is serious in its efforts to remove and eradicate the tax accumulations despite the measures that have been taken in this regard. On taxing people according to their real and actual earnings, Dr Yasin emphasized that the government is interested in this issue. He added that this needs much study, time, and great efforts.

Dr Yasin said the government is also trying to provide citizens with all the requirements, including funds, needed to secure the basic supply commodities to prevent any shortages. The deputy prime minister for economic affairs referred to the measures that the government has taken recently to enforce strict supply control measures, thus controlling prices and striking at those who tamper with the people's food, living, and supply requirements.

On the peasants' debts and loans, Dr Yasin said the existing legislation can provide solutions for the repayment problems. He added: If the Assembly believes that new legislation on the issue is needed, the government is ready to respond favorably to these legislations.

In reply to questions raised by some Assembly members, Finance Minister Dr Qahtan al-Suyufi thanked the Assembly members who spoke on the government's statement on the state budget, thus enriching it with their remarks and proposals. He emphasized that the reduction of administrative expenditure sought to rationalize expenditure and help bring about a good flow of management of resources. He also spoke about health allocations, including the current credit and the investment credit which exceeded 1,356 million Syrian pounds, and the way this amount is distributed among health institutions. The finance minister also spoke in detail about the allocations earmarked by the state to help control the cost of materials and the fund for subsidizing certain supply materials.

The finance minister explained the issue of salaries and wages and the raises given to the administrative and economic sectors. He also explained the method in which taxes are collected, the development of ways in which the taxes are calculated, and indicated that the government depends on direct taxes more than it depends on indirect taxes and fees, the deduction and collection means of which have developed beyond past pratices.

At the end of the discussion, the Assembly agreed to refer the draft law of the state general budget to the Assembly's Budget and Auditing Committee for discussion and to prepare a report on it.

The Assembly then discussed the report submitted by the Financial Laws Committee on the draft law which stipulates increasing the pensions of military personnel and civilian employees who are subject to the laws concerning the retirement of employees, social insurance, and independence war veterans. The Assembly approved the draft law as well as other draft laws.

The Assembly also discussed and approved the draft law on raising the salaries and wages of state officials. The session then was adjourned until the evening of 22 March.

Inner Cabinet Decides To Reduce S. African Ties

TA181951 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] The Inner Cabinet decided this evening that Israel will not sign any more agreements on defense issues with South Africa. It was also decided that Israel will reduce its ties with this country. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren provides details on the Inner Cabinet decision:

The most significant part of the Inner Cabinet decision is that Israel will not sign any new agreements with South Africa in the defense sphere. The Inner Cabinet has thereby provided an answer to the threat facing Israel from the U.S. Congress, which has decided to punish those countries having military ties with South Africa. In addition, the inner cabinet adopted a decision in principle to reduce bilateral ties in general. It was decided that a special committee will be set up to formulate Israel's new policy toward South Africa within 2 months, and its recommendations will be referred to the inner cabinet for another discussion.

The decision was reached after a prolonged debate, during which a heated argument erupted. Heading those who oppose the imposing of sanctions on South Africa was Minister Ari'el Sharon, who believes Israel can withstand U.S. pressure. In contrast, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres led those who support taking real steps on this matter. Peres stressed the damage that can be expected in Israel's international standing if it does not join Western countries in taking steps against South Africa.

There were also two surprises during the meeting: Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir took a stand alongside the Alignment bloc, which supported the decision to reduce ties with South Africa; and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who many thought would oppose the decision, supported it and thereby changed the direction of the entire discussion.

The foreign minister will issue a statement in the Knesset tomorrow on the decision reached by the Inner Cabinet this evening, and among other things will reiterate Israel's traditional condemnation of the apartheid policy.

Senior political elements in the Foreign Ministry noted a short while ago that they were favorably surprised by the Inner Cabinet decision, and explained that the difficult atmosphere prevailing in Israel-U.S. relations in the wake of the Pollard affair undoubtedly made an impact this evening and led the Inner Cabinet to reach this decision — a decision that does not call for immediate sanctions but is another step toward reducing ties between the two countries.

Compromise Decision Detailed

TA190815 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0505 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is to issue a statement in the Knesset today on last night's Inner Cabinet decision on sanctions against South Africa. With the end of the Inner Cabinet session, it now appears that the final proposal is not the original one brought by Minister Peres, but a joint proposal by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Minister 'Ezer Weizman. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami is still here in the studio:

[Ben-'Ami] At the Inner Cabinet session last night, Minister 'Ezer Weizman was not happy with the sanctions issue. Weizman said we could become a target for sanctions against us, and the process of cutting ourselves off from South Africa should be a slow one. As for the defense issue, Weizman was one of those who opposed severing ties with South Africa. This being the case, a draft resolution was proposed to the Inner Cabinet that spoke of condemning apartheid, further tempering relations, and signing no new contracts in the defense field. This proposal finally gained the support of the prime minister, Minister Weizman, and Ministers Sharon, Rabin, and Nisim. Minister Shim'on Peres' proposal to declare sanctions, European style, was not accepted. This refers to stringent and immediate economic sanctions. As stated, this maximalist proposal did not win a majority and, instead, the condemnation proposal was approved.

During the night the resolution was relayed to Israel's representatives in Washington and Pretoria, and today the Knesset is to hear an announcement on this by the vice prime minister and foreign minister.

Envoy Briefs Foreign Ministry

TA191020 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1000 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Israeli Ambassador in Pretoria David Ari'el briefed the South African Foreign Ministry today on the details of last night's Inner Cabinet decision. The ambassador met in the Foreign Ministry with the director of the European Department, and presented the version relayed to him after the Inner Cabinet session. The Knesset is now debating Israel's ties with South Africa.

Tamir Leaves for U.S. To Meet African Envoys

TA190523 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Avraham Tamir, Foreign Ministry director general, left for the United States last night to meet with ambassadors of developing countries. Our political correspondent reports that Mr Tamir will confer with ambassadors of African countries, including a country in northern Africa with which Israel has no diplomatic relations.

Pollard Knesset Subcommittee To Finish 7-10 Days

TA181120 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Abba Eban, chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, has said the subcommittee investigating the Pollard affair has finished questioning the main figures involved in the affair and will finish collecting the factual material in a week to 10 days. Only then will the subcommittee decide on the form its recommendations will take. Mr Eban now believes it will mainly submit practical recommendations on the functioning of intelligence-related bodies, but no recommendations dealing with individuals. Mr Eban was speaking to our correspondent Gid'on Remez after committee members met with a delegation of members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Future of Rotenstreich Commission Doubtful

TA190633 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Three key figure in the Pollard affair — Yosef Yagur, 'Irit Erb, and Ilan Ravid — have expressed willingness to appear before the Knesset Intelligence Subcommittee but not before the Rotenstreich commission. This was on the advice of their lawyer, Knesset Member [MK) David Liba'i. The move has cast some doubt about the future of the Rotenstreich commission. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] Yosef Yagur was scientific attache at the Israeli Consulate in New York. Ilan Ravid held the same position at the embassy in Washington; and 'Irit Erb was a secretary at the embassy. According to published reports, it was at Erb's apartment that the documents dropped by Jonathan Pollard were photocopied. The three have engaged one of Israel's best known and most expensive attorneys: Labor Party MK David Liba'i, a law professor and former president of the bar association. He has informed the chairman of the Knesset Intelligence Subcommittee, Abba Eban, that his clients are willing to appear before it. Yosef Yagur is scheduled to testify tomorrow. However, Liba'i also sent a letter to Prime Minister Shamir saying he had advised the three not to appear before the Rotenstreich commission.

The difference is that all proceedings of the Knesset subcommittee are strictly confidential and nobody can force the subcommittee to divulge them. This is not true of the Rotenstreich commission. If the United States Government, for example, decided to prosecute one ore more of the three, and the Israeli Government decided to cooperate and ordered Dr Rotenstreich to uncover the testimony of the person concerned, he could not refuse. Therefore, Liba'i advised Yagur, Ravid, and Erb not to appear before the Rotenstreich commission.

As a lawyer, Liba'i is bound to offer his clients the best advice he can. But whether his role as counsel in this case is compatible with his role as an MK is quite another question. After all, the Labor Party is committed to a thorough investigation of the Pollard scandal. Liba'i's advice puts Yehoshu'a Rotenstreich in a very awkward position, because when he agreed to head the commission, he declared, that if anyone refused to appear he would resign.

The Knesset Intelligence Subcommittee will today hear testimony from Major General Ehud Baraq, who was chief of Military Intelligence at the time of the Pollard affair, and from Hana Bar-on, the former assistant director general of the Foreign Ministry. Next week, it will again hear Colonel Avi'em Sela', Prime Minister Shamir, Defense Minister Rabin, and Foreign Minister Peres. [end recording]

Shamir Warns of Attempts To Damage U.S. Ties

TA181225 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1145 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir today repeated his promise that the committee of inquiry on the Pollard affair would be empowered to investigate anyone and that its findings would be respected. Speaking in Jerusalem to the Presidents Conference of American Jewish Organizations, Shamir reiterated that the affair was an unfortunate mistake and a personal tragedy.

[Begin Shamir recording] We must weigh this affair in its right context. We are intent on maintaining and developing our close and friendly ties with the United States, and the Government of the United States has informed us that they share this feeling completely. Already there are factors in the Middle East that try to exploit the situation in order to damage our close relations with the United States. Our friends must be on guard against this tendency. [end recording]

U.S. Promises No 'Unilateral Steps' on Irangate

TA180858 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English
18 Mar 87 p 2

[Text] The American congressional committees investigating the sale of arms to Iran have promised Israel that they would take no "unilateral steps" against Israelis involved in the affair, a senior source said yesterday in Jerusalem.

The source was speaking after the cabinet was briefed on recent Israel-U.S. contacts regarding the U.S. investigations of the affair.

The assurance to Israel by the Inouye and Hamilton congressional committees came after Israel promised them that it would soon provide two comprehensive documents — a "chronology" of Israel's role in the affair and a "financial account" of Israel's part in the arms transactions.

Israel and the committees have agreed that after the submission of the two documents the committees will present Israel with questions and an Israeli representative — probably Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein — will give the responses.

The committees will not ask to interview in person the Israeli officials involved — as American investigators did last year in the Pollard affair. But the independent prosecutor appointed by the White House to probe the affair, Lawrence Walsh, continues to insist on interviewing the Israeli officials involved.

Steering Committee Formed

TA180932 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 18 Mar 87 p 2

[Report by Dalya Shehori]

[Text] In accordance with the understanding achieved between the government and the inquiry committees of the U.S. Senate and Congress dealing with the consignments of arms to Iran on the interrogation of the Israelis involved in the affair, Israel will submit two lists to the committees. One will outline the historical circumstances surrounding Israel's involvement in the arms deals, and the other will detail the transfer of funds in which Israel was involved or with which it had any connection.

If, after this, any questions or clarifications remain, they will be directed to a steering committee established by the Prime Minister's Office for this purpose. These details were reported at yesterday's cabinet meeting by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, who is acting as chairman of the steering committee.

Other members of the steering committee are the director general of the Foreign Ministry, Dr Yosi Beilin; the prime minister's military adviser, Brigadier General 'Azri'el Nevo; the legal adviser to the defense establishment, Moshe Kohanovsky; and Major General (Reserves) Refa'el Vardi as special adviser. The committee secretary is Nadav 'Aner.

Rubinstein briefed the cabinet on the chain of circumstances that technically prevented the cabinet from responding to the request by the Tower Commission. As will be recalled, the Tower Commission and the Israeli Embassy in Washington had words over this matter.

Rubinstein reported that he received the Tower Commission's request on 17 February, when he was in Washington with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. The letter was dated 10 February but, as stated, reached him only on the 17th of that month. The letter calls for a response by 19 February. As a result of the short space of time between the receipt of the letter's and the last date for reply (2 days), it was impossible to answer the questions on time. A verbal explanation to this effect was given to the Tower Commission that same day, 17 February. A written explanation was also sent on 20 February, and Rubinstein himself left it at the State Department to be passed on. The Tower Commission completed its work on 24 February.

Regarding the U.S. Department of Justice investigation, headed by its special investigator Edward Lawrence Walsh, Israel presented its basic position that the clarifications process will be carried out between the governments and through written testimony. It seems that this is unacceptable to Walsh, and the matter has not yet been finally agreed on.

IDF Spokesman Announces Call-Up Exercise

TA181434 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1400 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] The IDF General Staff Command announces that a public call-up exercise summoning reserve soldiers is currently under way. Following is the text of the order issued by the deputy chief of staff and head of the IDF Operations Branch: Reserve soldiers whose unit codenames will be read out are hereby called to show up at once for reserve duty at the site specified in advance by their commanders. Owners of equipment, including vehicles to be deployed for duty in the units whose codenames will be detailed below, are hereby required to put the said equipment at the IDF's disposal at the site previously designated by an authorized officer or person assigned to summon the reservists.

The following are the codenames of the units being called up for the exercise: stable personality [ofi yatziv]; charity bearer [zore'a tzedaqa]; festive and symbolic [hagigi vesimli]; masterpiece [yetzirat mofet]; sublime and noble [nisgav vena'ale]; cloud formation ['amud 'anan]; protraced verdicts ['inuyey din]; Israeli poetry [shirat yisra'el]; synonym [shem nirdaf]; and burst of fury (shefihat za'am].

The order is signed by Major General Amir Drori, deputy chief of staff and head of the IDF Operations Branch, by virtue of his authority as commander in accordance with the Law of Security Service, Combined Version of 1986; according to the 34th Clause of the Law; by virtue of his authority stemming from the Emergency Regulations on Registration and Mobilization of Equipment of 1956; according to the 6th Regulation, and in view of the public call-up exercise now in progress. Reserve soldier, kindly note that if you are the owner of equipment summoned for duty by this order, while you yourself are also being summoned for reserve duty, you must first bring your vehicle or equipment to the regular gathering point, and only then report to your unit. Reservists called up in this exercise are requested to use the transportation system that will be operated from the meeting points and to refrain from using their private vehicles.

This was the IDF spokesman's announcement. [Announcement is repeated]

First Without Prior Notice

TA181833 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Senior IDF officers are following the call-up exercise, which has been under way since this afternoon. Our correspondent Elihu Ben-on reports that this is the first time a call-up exercise has been held without prior notice. IDF officers say the suddenness of the exercise was made possible by the good response of reservists in previous exercises. The call-up exercises examine the IDF's alertness. [passage omitted]

Rabin Remarks on Hizballah, Syrian Threats

TA182027 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Report by military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky on remarks by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin during a tour of the security zone in southern Lebanon on 18 March — videorecorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Shlonsky] In the wake of the Syrian entry into Beirut and the quiet they have achieved there, it is feared that Amal members and others will move southward to carry out attacks against Israel.

[Rabin] I have no doubt that in view of the fact that the Syrians will take action against Hizballah, Hizballah would like to prove it is the spearhead of activity against Israel, to gain public support and to give the Syrians a more difficult time attacking its members. Therefore, I am more concerned with Hizballah activity than with Amal activity.

[Shlonsky] [Passage omitted] No matter how swampy the Lebanese quagmire may be, it does not hide the real problem — the Syrians: the Syrians in Lebanon and on the Golan Heights. The talk about a large reduction in the Syrian defense budget is exaggerated.

[Rabin] There is no doubt that despite all the reductions made — and these were implemented only in the ground force — there has been no reduction in the regular order of battle of the Syrian Air Force, of its aerial defense, or of its Navy. Despite everything, the Syrian ground forces — and I am of course referring to the regular army — are still large, and require us not to change the size of the Israeli force on the Golan Heights, which must remain in the necessary state of alert and preparedness.

Rabin Meets With Gazans on Export Issue

TA151515 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin met in his office today with five figures from Gaza, all of whom are involved in the commercial and economic sphere. Our correspondent Arye Gus report that the participants requested that ways be found to export agricultural produce from the Gaza Strip to Europe via the Arab countries. They also asked the defense minister for his view on establishing a large port in Gaza. The defense minister replied that this was neither practical nor economical; he added, however, that if a proposal is submitted, Israel will examine it.

Businessman Discusses Meeting

JN162133 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World
1530 GMT 16 Mar 87

[From "With the Events" Program]

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin asserted that Israel does not object to the construction of a port in Gaza during a meeting with a number of businessmen and economists from the Gaza Strip. Among the Gaza Strip businessmen who met with the defense minister was 'Isam Rushdi al-Shawwa, who talked to our colleage Ibrahim Shahid.

[Begin recording] ['Isam al-Shawwa] We discussed purely economic issues related to the Gaza Strip's economy and needs. The first point discussed was the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce in the Gaza Strip, which should have 16 members as stipulated by law, has only eight members. The government has blocked an increase in the chamber's membership for a long time. This increase would enable the chamber to carry out its work. Even six more members would not be enough. The minister agreed on this point and authorized the governor to proceed with it. The second point was taxes. Later we discussed with him the subject of forming a municipal council for Gaza.

[Ibrahim Shahid] What about other economic issues such as the construction of a port in Gaza?

[Al-Shawwa] They agreed on it. Rabin said this is an extremely expensive project. He wondered who would pay for it. I told him: Suppose there were a state, and this state is non-Arab and apart from the PLO. He said: Then let it finance the project. He agreed to this if a European or other country were ready to pay for the port's construction.

[Shahid] What are the steps you will take following this approval, as you say, and what about the funding of the port's construction by a foreign corporation or country?

[Al-Shawwa] Naturally, we will consult with the country that has offered to fund the project.

[Shahid] Can we ask the name of that country?

[Al-Shawwa] Sweden.

[Shahid] Were there any other issues you discussed with the minister, Mr 'Isam al-Shawwa?

[Al-Shawwa] We discussed exempting citrus fruits from the fees collected at the King Husayn Bridge. We also requested freedom to deal in the Jordanian dinar as it is dealt in the West Bank. Rabin said: I will consider this and give you an answer soon.

[Shahid] Mr 'Isam al-Shawwa, what is your impression of your meeting with the defense minister given that you and the businessmen from the Gaza Strip presented these demands?

[Al-Shawwa] In fact, his reception of us was kind and the atmosphere was very cordial. Regarding all that was raised, we have come to the conclusion that he responded to our demand about the Chamber of Commerce. He said: We do not object to constructing a port. Regarding the other subjects, he said: We will consider them.

[Shahid] Thanks you, Mr 'Isam Rushdi al-Shawwa, a businessman from the Gaza Strip. [end recording]

IMF Warns Bank Official of 'Rapid Deterioration'

TA101316 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] In a report to the governor of the Bank of Israel, the IMF warns about a rapid deterioration in the Israeli economy similar to the situation in Brazil and Argentina. The members of the IMF delegation are concerned about the planned increase in the budget deficit, and claim that wage increases will threaten the curb on inflation. According to the report, increasing the minimum wage through legislation would harm the economy, and wage increases in the public sector will necessitate dismissals. Tax reduction for individuals in the framework of tax reform is undesirable, according to the IMF, when consumption increases.

Our economics correspondent Me'ir Einstein, who provided these details, adds that the Knesset Finance Committee today began discussing income tax reform and heard the reservations of economic organizations about the proposed reform. The Treasury estimates that the reform will cost 750 million shekels, 250 million of which would come from the budget.

Rubin: Report 'Not Important'

TA111544 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] The prime minister's economic adviser, 'Amos Rubin, has said that the IMF report is not important. Speaking to our economic affairs correspondent Me'ir Einstein, the adviser explained that the IMF cannot dictate economic moves to Israel because Israel receives no aid from it.

The economic ministries have generally expressed satisfaction with the report, stating that it reflects the Treasury's and the Bank of Israel's policy.

1986 Employment Data Given on Territorial Arabs

TA181057 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 17 Mar 87

["Communicated by the Central Bureau of Statistics" — GPO subslug]

[Text] The work force in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip averaged 269,000 persons per week during 1986 (an increase of approximately 7 percent over 1985). The size of the overall work force, from among all Judaea, Samaria and Gaza residents age 14 years and older, rose from 34.8 percent in 1985 to 36.1 percent in 1986. In Judaea and Samaria there was an increase in the number of those entering the work force, from 34.8 percent in 1985 to 36.1 percent in 1986; in the Gaza Strip there was an increase from 33 percent in 1985 to 33.4 percent in 1986. These figures wese reported by the Central Bureau of Statistics' spokesman on the basis of data collected in family surveys regularly conducted by the bureau. In Judaea-Samaria, the percentage of males in the work force rose from 63.9 percent in 1985 to 66.7 percent in 1986; in the Gaza Strip there was almost no change.

The number of unemployed in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza actively seeking work constituted 3 percent of the work force, versus 3.6 percent in 1985. In Judaea-Samaria the figure reached 3.8 percent in 1986, versus 5 percent in 1985, while the figure for Gaza was 1.5 percent. Meanwhile, the proportion of employed residents from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza reached 261,000 in 1986, as opposed to 242,000 in 1985: 167,000 in Judaea-Samaria and 94,000 in the Gaza District (as compared with 151,000 and 91,000, respectively, in 1985)

Approximately 64 percent of those employed worked near their place of residence, while 36 percent were employed in Israel. Among Judaea and Samaria workers, 31 percent were employed in Israel, while 46 percent of Gaza workers were employed in Israel. The number of residents of these areas working in Israel averaged 95,000 per week (as compared with 89,000 in 1985); 51,000 from Judaea-Samaria and 43,000 from Gaza (as opposed to 47,000 and 42,000, respectively, in 1985). The increase in the number of those working in Israel was due primarily to the construction branch, from 42,000 in 1985 to approximately 45,000 last year.

The average daily wage earned by Judaea and Samaria residents — as derived from the Consumer Price Index in Judaea-Samaria — increased in 1986 by 12.4 percent over 1985, which had seen a 5.3 percent decline from 1984. The fixed-price wage of Judaea-Samaria residents working in Israel increased by 20 percent, after 1985 had seen a 5.3 percent decline in relation to the previous year. In Gaza, the daily wage of local residents rose by 20.6 percent in 1986 as compared with 1985, after a decline in 1985 of 12.7 percent in comparison to 1984. There was also a 32 percent increase in the daily wage of Gaza residents employed in Israel.

LIBYA

Economic, Technical Agreement Signed With YAR

JN181458 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Assembly, met last night with his Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The meeting was attended by Brother 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, vice president, speaker of the Constituent People's Assembly, and member of the Standing Committee; and Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, member of the Libyan 1 September RCC.

During the meeting, they completed the discussion of the issues discussed during the previous session and later a closed meeting was held between brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The YAR and the Libyan Jamahiriyah signed an agreement in Surt yesterday on bilateral economic and technical cooperation. The agreement provides for the exchange of expertise in economic and technical fields and for bilateral coordination on development plans. It also provides for the exchange of technical expertise in the health field.

Brother Dr Muhammad Ahmad al-Kabab, health minister and member of the Standing Committee, signed the agreement for the YAR, while Brother Fawzi al-Shakshuki, secretary of the General People's Committee for Public Service, signed for Libya.

Al-Humaydi Briefs Al-Qadhdhafi on Tunisia Visit

LD151107 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0915 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Tripoli, 15 Mar (JANA) — The brother leader of the revolution received Brigadier al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi who presented a report to him on his visit to the fraternal country of Tunisia.

Brother al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi talked highly of the warm welcome accorded to him by all brothers in Tunisia.

JANA Comments on U.S. Violation of Greek Airspace

LD161038 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0745 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Athens, 16 Mar (JANA) — Several U.S. warplanes violated Greek airspace south of Crete over the past 2 days.

A Greek Government spokesman has stated that Greek Air Force planes intercepted the U.S. warplanes and forced them to leave Greek airspace. Furthermore, Greece protested strongly to the U.S. Administration at this provocative and lunatic action by its warplanes, which violated the sanctity of Greek territory.

The JANA international affairs editor has commented on this provocative action by the administration of the Rabid Dog against the Greek people. He said: Once more, the U.S. Administration affirms its lunacy to the whole world by seeking to impose its domination and hegemony and by violating the sovereignty and air sanctity of other countries. He points out that the U.S. Administration's actions against the Greek people are not new to world public opinion nor to the Greek people themselves. Yesterday's provocation occurred because the Greek socialist government rejected the U.S. Administration's call for the renewal of the treaty between the two countries permitting the establishment of new U.S. bases and an increase in the U.S. military presence on Greek territory.

Finally, the editor added that the U.S. Air Force's violation of Greek airspace is tantamount to a show of the mad power complex now dominating the U.S. Administration, intended to intimidate and threaten the Greek Government, which has repeatedly rejected the policy of hegemony and arrogance by the administration of the Rabid Dog.

MAURITANIA

13 Antigovernment Protesters Reportedly Jailed

AB161155 Paris AFP in English 0839 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Nouakchott, March 16 (AFP) — Thirteen people arrested after pro-black, anti-government demonstrations in this north-west African country last September have been jailed for up to five years each by a court here, according to informed sources.

The 13 were accused of committing violent acts such as burning vehicles and factories. Five were sentenced to five years, eight to four years, while five others were acquitted. They were publicly tried earlier this month.

Twenty other people were tried, convicted and jailed for up to eight years each last September in the wake of the unrest, which was led by Mauritanians of African origin against the country's Arab ruling class. [passage omitted]

SUDAN

Minister Returns From Libya After Talks on Chad

JN181046 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Khartoum, Mar 18 (SUNA) — State Minister at the Ministry of Defence retired Major General Fadlallah Burma Nasir has described his visit to Libya as positive and encouraging.

Nasir, who returned from Libya yesterday concluding a six-day official visit to Tripoli, said he was convinced that dialogue is the only means for halting war in Chad.

The state minister at the Ministry of Defence visit to Libya came within the framework of Sudan's initiative that aimed at ending the war in Chad.

Al-Mahdi Receives Senegalese President's Envoy
JN141541 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1436 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Mar (SUNA) — Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi received a written message today from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf on Sudanese-Senegalese relations.

The message was conveyed during a meeting today between the prime minister and (Ahmed Halifah Yanas), President Diouf's personal envoy. In a statement after the meeting, (Yanas) said the message expresses the profound relations between the two countries. He added that the prime minister showed a positive response and complete readiness to strengthen and give impetus to relations between the two countries.

The Senegalese president's envoy indicated that the exchange of envoys by Sudan and Senegal will be intensified in the coming period as part of the efforts by Senegal and Sudan to open embassies in Khartoum and Dakar, respectively.

(Ahmed Halifah Yanas) arrived in Khartoum the day before yesterday as part of a tour of the Arab area. He is carrying messages from President Diouf to officials in the countries he is visiting.

Democratic Party Official on Regional Problems
LD121534 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0717 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Bonn, 11 Mar (KUNA) — Muhammad Isma'il al-Azhari, member of the Sudanese Unionist Democratic Party Political Bureau, emphasized here today that delegations from the Libyan and Chadian governments are currently in Khartoum for talks aimed at putting an end to the Chadian crisis.

The Sudanese party official told KUNA that these Libyan-Chadian contacts are the result of intensive efforts by the Sudanese Government and others, including Algeria and Nigeria, to reach an agreement between Libya and Chad on ending the grave crisis between the two neighboring countries. He pointed out that the Sudanese Government is also making contact with European countries to urge them to contribute in a positive way to the efforts aimed at ending the conflict between Libya and Chad.

Al-Azhari rejected reports on the presence of Libyan forces in Sudanese territory. He said tendentious propaganda tools leaked this untrue news to implicate Sudan in the conflict and to wreck any opportunity for dialogue and reconciliation between the two African countries in the conflict. He stressed that his country relies on a policy of dialogue in its relations with neighboring states. "It does not favor one regime at the expense of another."

He pointed out that this policy has contributed to the success of a number of mediations between neighboring regimes in conflict, the most recent of which is Chad. His government is also hopeful that further success will be achieved in its current mediation between Iraq and Iran.

As for the recent democratic experience in Sudan, Al-Azhari emphasized that it is going the right way. At the same time, he pointed out the serious and fateful turning points it is passing on this path. He emphasized the need for the Sudanese Government to give priority to the current economic problems so that Sudanese citizens will not feel that democracy is all empty slogans and statements, but that it is an honest and just system that will bring the benefits of better living standards and daily conditions.

Al-Azhari warned that the democratic experience will be in danger "if the present government fails to deal with the social and economic situation". He attributed the economic crisis Sudan is facing now to the previous dictatorial system that plundered the country and pushed it to the limits of bankruptcy. He explained that the problem in southern Sudan swallows up 35 million pounds from the state budget every day. This would be better invested in economic projects to improve the situation of the Sudanese people.

He emphasized, however, that the Sudanese Army is controlling the situation in the south except for a few pockets under the rebels' control that are without strategic importance. He expressed hope that the current Egyptian mediation will succeed in bringing closer the views of his country and Ethiopia so the Ethiopian Government will drop its support of John Garang, which, in his view, is due to "the Ethiopian side's misunderstanding of the Sudanese stance toward the present regime in Addis Ababa."

With regard to Sudanese-Egyptian relations, Al-Azhari said the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party welcomes the fraternity treaty between the two countries, pointing out that "Sudanese-Egyptian relations are natural, civilizational, and historic, and their continuity is evident regardless of the nature of the ruling regimes in Egypt and Sudan." He emphasized that the question of handing over former President Ja'far Numayri to the Sudanese Government will not affect future relations between the Sudanese and Egyptian peoples "in spite of the fact that this request comes from the Sudanese people and cannot be abandoned because it is part of the recent popular revolution for democracy in Sudan."

Al-Azhari arrived here last Monday on a week-long visit for talks with the political parties in Bonn.

Finance Minister Addresses Assembly on Debts
JN172127 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1805 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Mar (SUNA) — Dr Bashir 'Umar, minister of finance and economic planning, has stated that Sudan's debts reached $10.6 billion by the end of last December. In a statement before the Constituent Assembly today, the minister said the debts were originally $6.9 billion but the accumulated interest reached $3.7 billion. He said that $3.105 billion was allocated for development projects, of which $2.263 billion was already invested, leaving only $842 million.

The minister said that $2.382 billion of the Sudanese debts were from the Paris Club, $3.939 billion from other states, $1 billion [figures indistinct] from commercial banks, and $325 million from credit facilities.

The minister noted that an agreement was reached with the banks to reschedule their due payments, which were $1 billion until 1979. These will be paid within 4 years after a 3-year grace period at an interest rate of 1.75 percent over the London bank interest rate.

On the payments that were due to commercial banks by the end of 1986 amounting to $800 million, the minister said efforts are being made with these banks to reschedule them better than last time.

On the overall debt due in the next 5 years, the minister said it totals $4.17 billion. He added that it is not possible to pay this debt within this period, given the current economic situation, and he attributed this to the drastic imbalance of trade and the low level of productivity.

The minister said the debts are a great burden on the Sudanese economy and were the inevitable result of the practices of the defunct regime. Loans and grants were not spent as they should have been. The minister added that efforts will continue to reach a solution to this problem commensurate with the country's ability.

The minister pointed out that there is a need to continue the policy of borrowing funds from abroad and acquiring foreign assistance, given the current economic crisis. He said the government has raised the slogan of borrowing to get rid of debts. This means we should exploit the loans as best we can to expand production and increase the country's resources. The minister reviewed the government's plan to end the debts by relying on agriculture and the country's resources. He said the government has taken broad steps such as forming the National Planning Council to encourage industry and agriculture, supporting the Planning Commission, establishing a Central Department for Foreign Debts, and signing many protocols with fraternal states, in addition to the quadrilateral program to salvage the economy. He said the process of drawing money and using loans is being carefully monitored by the loan administration in accordance with the articles of each loan agreement.

On the presence of foreign experts in connection with these loans, he said some loans stipulate the presence of these experts, adding that some experts were asked to work in some Finance Ministry departments to improve performance and train Sudanese cadres.

The minister noted that the Finance Ministry is making a comprehensive assessment of the foreign expertise with the aim of evaluating the performance of the experts in both their own work and in their training of Sudanese cadres who work with them.

The minister said the debts of the Arab financial establishments will be repayed with local currency through the Bank of Sudan, the Planning Commission, and the party concerned. The minister said: Concerning the debts from states that do not belong to the Paris Club, particularly the socialist states, these were borrowed for the Armed Forces. Some of the debts from the socialist states are being repaid by exporting Sudanese commodities to them to cover 50 percent of the debts. The other 50 percent will be paid with free currencies.

The minister also said he cannot be sure if these debts are genuine, adding that the government is investigating them from a legal viewpoint, and if some of them are found to be illegal, the government will dissociate itself from them. Some of these debts occurred in suspect circumstances, and we have the right to doubt such loan agreements, he said.

Police Sent to Darfur to End Looting by Chadians

JN141805 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1715 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Mar (SUNA) — The Interior Ministry has sent a central reserve police company to the Darfur region to help police there end the armed looting in the region as a result of the entry of some Chadian tribe members fleeing the Chadian war.

This was announced by Lieutenant General Ibrahim Ahmad 'Abd al-Karim, acting police director general. In a statement today, he said this measure was taken in light of a report presented by a police delegation that visited the Darfur region last week to learn about the security situation there. The issue was presented to the Council of Ministers, which decided to give emergency aid to police there. He pointed out that weapons, equipment, and food supplies were sent.

Tribesmen Reportedly Kidnap 486 People in South

JN181043 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Khartoum Mar 18 (SUNA) — A southern Sudan MP has revealed that more than 486 children and women have been kidnapped in a short period from Bahr al-Ghazal region in south Sudan by Al-Maraheel tribesmen.

MP Simon Mawing told the parliament yesterday that the government was turning a blind eye to the issue and that a wide range of kidnapping operations were being carried out by the Al-Maraheel tribe against southern tribes.

The MP urged the government to take the necessary measures to halt what he called the piracy actions.

A delegation from Bahr al-Ghazal region has recently visited the capital to review the issue with the concerned officials.

It is to be recalled that Bahr al-Ghazal borders a continuum of south and western tribes has been area of tribal clashes. [sentence as received]

TUNISIA

Sfar Interviewed on Maghreb, Internal Issues

PM161441 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 6 Mar 87 pp 26,27,29

[Interview with Prime Minister Rachid Sfar by 'Afaf Zayn in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Introductory passage omitted] *Al-Hawadith*: You have attended the ICO summit in Kuwait and had the opportunity to closely acquaint yourself with the Arab political position. How would you assess this position, and do you believe it matches current responsibilities?

Sfar: Everybody feels that the ICO summit held at the level of Arab or Islamic representation was in fact a very positive event, especially if we take the difficult month proceding the summit and the threats to impede it into account. Kuwait, led by his highness the amir, as well as other presidents and leaders, were successful in their efforts. Such Arab, Islamic, and Kuwaiti efforts rose to the level of the summit, which was held under good organization and which succeeded in arranging bilateral Arab and Islamic meetings.

Of course, everyone had hoped for much better results than those actually attained. But insofar as the issues were complicated and ramified, we believed it was not possible to overcome our problems and to find real and final solutions to them within 3 or 4 days. Both worlds, the Arab and Islamic, are suffering from old and accumulated problems. Despite this feeling, those who witnessed the ICO summit at its various stages, whether at the technical level, the level of the foreign ministers' meeting, or the level of the summit itself, would welcome the positive moves that resulted from this event. They would also welcome the phenomenon of competition among a large number of countries to make sincere endeavors to reach the desired radical solutions that the Arab and Islamic people are awaiting. I would say that the ICO summit in Kuwait was successful organizationally and in its attempt to find solutions. The summit avoided fragmentations and divisions in the ranks. It adopted resolutions which the ICO member states can pursue and upon which it can build plans and programs to contribute to the achievement of more radical solutions. The summit also saw attempts at the Arab level to overcome some problems, but no final result was reached. But the summit has enabled a large number of delegations to view one another's positions, whether at the bilateral or five-sided meetings, a matter that could make matters easier and relief imminent.

Al-Hawadith: Tunisia is a member of more than one Arab conciliation committee, and you have made long strides in a series of endeavors to clear the Arab atmosphere. Do you believe clearing the atmosphere is an easy task in the present circumstances?

Sfar: As I said earlier, because of the complexity and ramification of the issues, this task is no easy one, neither for us nor for other brothers involved in similar conciliation efforts. The important thing is that we should not give up hope, and — most important of all — we should continue work to broaden the circle of the sincere and to increase the number of the wise people who are seriously and sincerely working for unity.

Al-Hawadith: In light of the state of isolation the Arab nationalist action is witnessing and the failure to achieve comprehensive unity, do you agree that the idea of regional unions remains a more realistic solution? Do you believe the Arab Maghreb region is prepared for a similar regional union?

Sfar: I agree with you that one of the reasons for our distress and division is pompous theories. Rightly or wrongly, we have wasted precious time studying and discussing such theories. And this at a time when it would have been more feasible and beneficial to respect one another and work toward creating an atmosphere of real trust among ourselves in the east and the west. The building of an Arab nation can only be founded on the extent of the Arab citizens' pride in their countries and on their sincere intentions to be real nationalists. Therefore, you have these chaotic contradictions that emerged as a result of chasing after theories and listening to views that see a contradiction between the citizen's pride in his country and his efforts to strengthen his pan-Arab affiliation. These views consider patriotism to be a national defect, regionalism, and a retreat. Much effort and time have been lost in this regard. Pan-Arab nationalism can be true nationalism only through the patriotism of the Arabs, who are first and foremost proud of their own countries and working hard in their countries' interests. I believe true integration lies within the framework of neighbors who respect one another and accept, in words and deeds, the right of each country to deal with its own internal affairs without interference in its sovereignty. If this is to be maintained over the years, all logical integration formulas will become possible, especially the regional formula that establishes unity on the basis of the interests of the peoples of a particular region. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: The Arab Maghreb region has witnessed many unionist projects. But the one still in effect is the Brotherhood and Cooperation agreement concluded among Tunisia, Algeria, and Mauritania. You have stated on more than one occasion that this agreement is the backbone of the Arab Maghreb's great dream. Do you believe this agreement can be developed to make an integral unionist project? Are Tunisia's recent moves heading in this direction? What are the chances of success for such a unionist project?

Sfar: It is true that this agreement is the backbone of the Arab Maghreb's great project, and you are correct in your analysis. In fact the Supreme Combatant [Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba] has stressed that this agreement will be the foundation for a great Arab Maghreb.

His excellency the president, the Supreme Combatant, and his Brother [Algerian] President Chadli Bendjedid have set the fundamental principles for Arab unity on the basis of the correct and realistic given facts. This agreement has adopted fundamental principles, most important of which is that the parties to the agreement are totally committed to respect one another and not to interfere in one another's internal affairs. [passage omitted] But there are some difficulties to which we should find a solution. There is, for instance, the Sahara problem. There is also our dialogue with our Libyan brothers, which we have begun but have not yet concluded. We must continue to work together on various aspects rather than leaving Tunisia to do this work alone.

Al-Hawadith: It has been observed — within the framework of the efforts being made by the parties signatory to the Brotherhood and Cooperation agreement — that the Arab Maghreb is witnessing much political activity to organize its internal affairs. The first move was a Tunisian one, in cooperation with Mauritania, aimed at holding an Algerian-Moroccan summit. The second — Algerian — move was aimed at achieving a Tunisian-Libyan reconciliation. How would you assess both moves, and what can they achieve?

Sfar: We make efforts continually; I would say they are a start but they must continue. Matters are more complicated than one can imagine. Thank God all parties are eager to find solutions, but we have to act and not merely talk. Talk of a Moroccan-Algerian summit is premature. Talking can sometimes harm the cause and postpone matters rather than bring them closer to fruition.

Al-Hawadith: There is a prevailing belief, which you have now emphasized, that the Sahara problem is the major obstacle facing the organization of the Arab Maghreb's affairs. How do you visualize a method of reaching an ideal solution, or at least a rational move toward a solution?

Sfar: At present it seems to me that any statement in this regard would not facilitate a speedy solution. Therefore, I refuse to comment. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: There have been many signs recently of the emergence of fundamentalist trends in the Arab region. Is Tunisia witnessing a similar situation? Does this phenomenon enjoy any popularity or acceptance among the Tunisian people?

Sfar: The important issue you just referred to requires an in-depth discussion and more time. Tunisia is an Islamic state. Tunisia has been and still is a beacon of true Islam, which works toward raising the standard of the Tunisian nation. We are part of the Islamic nation and whatever is reformist [salafi] is alien to Tunisia. Whatever is reformist would hamper the deepening of Islamic affiliation. There are many currents and heresies that distort the image of true Islam and give the wrong image of Islamic values. Such heresies and currents are alien and new to us. In fact, all the schemes and moves undertaken by the leader of the Tunisian renaissance, the Supreme Combatant President Bourguiba, over 30 years of bitter struggle against the imperialist who tried to erase the affiliation and nobility of the Islamic trend in Tunis, and Bourguiba's struggle after independence to establish the edifice of the state — have always focused on preserving the Arab Islamic character of the Tunisian nation. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: The trials held in Tunisia last June of a number of individuals from the Islamic Jihad organization revealed that one of those sentenced to death was an officer in your Armed Forces. Do you still consider this to be a marginal phenomenon? How far has this fundamentalist trend penetrated the Army's ranks?

Sfar: The trials you are referring to were objective trials conducted in accordance with the law, in the presence of lawyers, and in complete openness. Contrary to what others say, there have been no political trials. We do not try people simply because they express their views, if they are views worth expressing. As for recent or past trials, they were based on charges and acts committed by some parties, acts that posed a threat to the country's security or exposed society to dangerous ventures. Those individuals were not tried simply because they espouse particular views or political and ideological ideas.

The issue is limited to the fact that a small group of four people attempted to carry out sabotage operations to seize money from establishments and embark on criminal acts in violation of national security. They did, in fact, clearly admit their actions, plans, and motives. Those individuals belong to groups operating in other known countries. These groups also carried out sabotage operations in numerous known locations. The Tunisian regime is keeping a watchful eye out to preserve national security. The Tunisian regime will not allow itself to neglect its duty to protect the homeland from saboteurs. We do not confuse respect for political views and freedom of thought with the intentions of some secret organizations to plan or carry out operations detrimental to society's security and the homeland's safety. The courts and the laws will deal very severely with such secret groups. [passage omitted]

WESTERN SAHARA

Information Minister on Abdelaziz Visit to Syria

LD142302 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] SDAR Information Minister Ibrahim Hakim today assessed the results of Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz' visit to Syria. Ibrahim Hakim told APS that the visit to Damascus by President Mohamed Abdelaziz constitutes a new dimension in the struggle of the Arab liberation movement and a basic stage in the success of the Saharan cause within the Arab homeland.

During the visit, his first to Damascus, the Polisario secretary general held several talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and other senior Syrian officials. The talks were an opportunity to strengthen bilateral relations and to exchange views about a number of issues of mutual interest, primarily the situation in the Arab homeland and the Moroccan-Zionist alliance.

Mohamed Abdelaziz held a news conference that centered on the current development of the Polisario struggle and the diplomatic victories achieved by SDAR, despite the alliance between the Rabat regime and the Zionist enemy, whose influence has expanded in the Western Sahara at the side of the Moroccan occupation forces. This alliance, according to the Polisario secretary general and SDAR president, represents a new treason against the Arab nation and its sacred cause.

DJIBOUTI

'French Expatriates' Killed in Bombing 18 March

BK190337 Hong Kong AFP in English 0327 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Paris, March 19 (AFP) — Ten people were killed Wednesday and at least 40 injured when an bomb exploded at a crowded pavement cafe mainly frequented by Europeans in the former French colony of Djibouti, in the Horn of Africa, according to Defence Ministry sources here. The dead reportedly included several French expatriates, a Djiboutian policeman and an army sergeant. Many of the bodies were burned beyond recognition, and several of the injured were in criticial condition. Police said "everything points to a criminal explosion", probably involving a "powerful bomb." The blast took place during the evening rush-hour at the Historil Cafe in the city centre. The bomb blew a hole in the cafe ceiling and several people were half buried in fallen masonry. Djibouti security forces cordoned off the neighbourhood near the cafe, but the rest of the city was quiet.

Sources at the Presidency in Djibouti said many Africans rushed to shake the hands of shocked French residents to "show them there is no anti-French sentiment". However Djibouti authorities said it was clear the blast was directed at Europeans, and French expatriates in particular. Nearly 4,000 French soldiers, plus their families and a large force of civilian cooperation workers live in Djibouti, where France has a large military base. Nearly 10 years ago in December 1977, a similar blast destroyed the "Palmier en Zinc" Cafe situated on the other side of the square from the Historil. Five people were killed and 30 were injured in that blast. At the time the explosion was blamed on an extremist nationalist group.

Wednesday's explosion coincided with the end in Djibouti of a fund-raising conference of the Intergovernment Authority Against Drought (IGAAD) — a body grouping the five Horn of Africa countries plus 26 international organisations. Last year in January, a small bomb damaged the offices of the ruling Popular Rally for Progress on the eve of a summit of IGAAD members. It was attributed by Djibouti authorities to supporters of Aden Robleh a former minister of commerce, trade and tourism who defected to the opposition more than a year ago. Mr. Aden Robleh, a veteran of the independence struggle, was sentenced to life imprisonment and now lives in exile in Paris. However according to reliable sources, he recently left Paris for Addis Ababa.

The explosion also comes two months ahead of legislative and presidential elections on April 24 when President Hassan Gouled Aptidon will be seeking a new mandate.

UGANDA

Kampala Reports Over 200 Rebels Killed in North

EA190845 Kampala Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] The Ministry of Defense has announced that the National Resistance Army [NRA], in its continued hunt of criminal bands in the north of Uganda, on 13th March inflicted another defeat on the enemy group at Obim, north of Lira. A Ministry of Defense statement issued in Kampala last evening said the enemy group that had previously been defeated by the NRA forces at Gulu, Lira, and Corner Kilak lost 210 confirmed dead and 73 rifles [as heard] captured during the confrontation at Obim. This is the latest blow against the group, which had been marshalled by the criminal elements to march on Kampala.

Instead of marching on Kampala, the statement said, the enemy group has faced destruction at Pajule, Corner Kilak, Puranga, Gulu, Lira, and now at Obim. In this encounter [as heard] since December 1986, this group alone has lost about 2,000 rebels killed and more than 1,000 rifles captured.

NRA To Maintain Watch Over Police Affairs

EA182334 Kampala Domestic Service in English
1400 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] A political commissar in the NRA [National Resistance Army] has said the judiciary and the Armed Forces should consider themselves an integrated body.

Addressing a seminar at Makerere University on theme of Uganda's constitutional framework, he added that some civilians are being held in [words indistinct] instead of police stations or government prisons, because some criminals escape from police stations and prison without sound reasons. He said this has been happening because the police have not yet been fully rehabilitated, but as soon as they are rehabilitated, the Army will hand over everything to the police.

He denied that the NRA is interfering into police affairs, but he said that the NRA does not want to see wrong things happening in the country and sit down in watch.

Foreign Affairs Minister Receives Finnish Envoy

EA190012 Kampala Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Ibrahim Mukiibi, has condemned the enemies of Uganda who are supporting the rebels in the north to fight the NRM Government, which is committed to unity, development, democracy, and respect for human rights.

The minister told the visiting Finnish ambassador to Uganda based in Nairobi, Mr Tom Gronberg, that the NRM Government is determined to deal with the rebels seriously in order to restore peace and stability in the region. He said the NRM Government will continue to observe human rights in Uganda.

The minister also told the envoy that Uganda relations with her neighbors are excellent. He said the NRM Government encourages the regional economic organisations, such as the PTA [Preferential Trade Area] and Kagera River Basin. He thanked the Finnish Government for the economic aid it is giving to Uganda, especially in the agricultural field, to increase the production of both food and cash crops.

CHAD

Radio Reports Libyan Bombing of Fada 18 March

AB181346 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1335 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] The Libyan Air Force bombed Fada this morning. It was precisely at 0530 [0430 GMT]. This bombing, which continued uninterrupted, came only 24 hours after Libya's land and air attacks on Yarda in the Borkou region.

GUNT Claims 73 Killed in Fighting Near Yarda

LD182030 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1925 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Bardai 18 Mar (JANA) — The GUNT Information Minister and official spokesman has issued the following communique:

The National Liberation Army of the legitimate GUNT has clashed in a battle with the FANT forces in the region of Yarda.

In the clashes, 73 enemy troops were killed, while 17 were injured and 7 were captured. Several U.S.-made vehicles and military equipment were also destroyed.

The efficiency of the National Liberation Army and their determination to defeat the agents of imperialism in Ndjamena and their allies are being confirmed every day.

CONGO

Bongo Concludes Visit; Communique Issued on Chad

AB181050 Dakar PANA in French 0926 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Brazzaville, 18 Mar (ACI/PANA) — The OAU ad hoc committee on the Chadian-Libyan conflict will meet in Libreville in the second half of April. This was stated in a communique published yesterday at the end of Gabonese President Omar Bongo's visit to Brazzaville.

The communique added that Presidents Omar Bongo of Gabon and Sassou-Nguesso of Congo called for "respect for Chad's integrity and for frontiers inherited from colonization."

The Gabonese head of state is heading the OAU ad hoc committee on the Chadian-Libyan conflict, while Congo is coordinating its activities. Other member states of this committee are: Algeria, Cameroon, CAR, Mozambique, and Senegal.

During President Bongo's 3-day visit (14 through 17 March), the two heads of state also examined the situation in southern Africa. According to the communique, the two heads of state also called on the international community to "honor its commitment to Africa, within the framework of the implementation of the United Nations action program for the economic revival and development of the continent." This program, evaluated at more than $120 billion, will be achieved through assistance of $46 billion from the international community over a 5-year period.

GABON

Opposition MORENA Elects New President

AB181211 Paris AFP in French 1522 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Paris, 17 March (AFP) — According to a communique released today in Paris, Max Anicet Koumba Mbadinga, the former general secretary of the National Recovery Movement (MORENA — the banned Gabonese opposition party), was elected as president of the movement. He succeeds Paul Mba-Abassole.

The vote, the communique stated, took place at an extraordinary congress, on 15 and 16 March in Paris, during which the principles of nonviolence were laid down.

On this occasion, the communique went on, Mr Mbadinga stressed the urgency of putting an end to the 1-party system in Gabon, which transgresses human rights and jeopardizes national peace. He called for a return to the 21 February 1961 constitution, which, he said, guarantees the integration of all political parties into Gabonese political life.

On the other hand, the communique declared, the congress made changes in the election conditions of the president and the length of his stay in office, which will henceforth be 4 years instead of 2, renewable once.

Marcel Ogoula Renombo and Flavien Edou were elected as general secretary and treasurer, respectively, the communique added.

Last December, Mr Mbadinga was excluded from the MORENA by Mr Mba-Abassole. The latter, affirmed Mr Mbadinga, was turned down because his leadership of the party was in contradiction with the regulations.

BENIN

PRPB: Student Agitation Not To Be Tolerated

AB182126 Cotonou Domestic Service in French
1930 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Communique issued by the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin in Cotonou on 17 March, following the outbreak of student unrest on the campus of the National University of Benin — live or recorded]

[Text] For some time now, a small group of anarchist students, under the pretext of defending their interests, have tried every means to cause trouble in the various institutes of the National University of Benin.

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin [PRPB] reminds people that at this period of serious economic crisis when our vanguard party, the PRPB, and our revolutionary state are constantly preoccupied with the problems of our pupils and students, no form of agitation whatsoever will be tolerated. To this end, stern instructions have been given to the comrade minister of defense and popular armed forces, to the minister delegate to the president in charge of interior, public security, and territorial administration, to the minister of secondary and higher education, and to all the chairmen of the state committees for the administration of provinces and prefects of provinces to ensure that order and security is maintained, no matter the cost, throughout the country, especially on the campus of the National University of Benin.

Consequently, all agitations, whatever their nature, will be met with full rigor and, whenever necessary, the National University of Benin will be closed down without recourse.

The Political Bureau calls for vigilance and a sense of responsibility by parents of students, teachers at all levels, pupils and students, patriots, and militants to render harmless all agitators and provocateurs who, through subversive activities, will try to compromise the future of our young students.

Ready for the revolution, the struggle continues!

[Issued] in Cotonou on 17 March 1987 by the Political Bureau of the PRPB

Kerekou Vows 'No Pity'

AB182233 Cotonou Domestic Service in French
1930 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] I told you a short while ago that before his departure, President Kerekou spoke about the trouble fomented in the various sections of the National University of Benin by anarchist students. The president reaffirmed the willingness of the leadership of our country to tighten the authority of the party and the state at all levels.

[Begin Kerekou recording] I am making this statement to make it clear that the instructions given by the Political Bureau, concerning this issue, to the comrade minister of defense, to the minister of interior and of security, and to the chief of staff of the Popular Armed Forces of Benin have received our approval and that we have decided to move ahead. That is to say, there will be no pity shown in the repression of such acts, whatever the cost. We are now determined not to play the game of petty neocolonized liberals. The time has come for the authority of the state and the party to be asserted at all levels. So, a word to the wise is sufficient.

All students who have benefitted from the connivance either of some of their relatives or infiltrators from local or international reactionary groups: We will deal with you with resolute force. The time has come when one can no longer play with the interests of the people of Benin and of their democratic and popular revolution. [end recording]

This is what President Kerekou has said. I wish to report, consequently, that the militant people of Benin are vigilant to block troublemakers. We need to arm ourselves further with determination to check counterrevolution. It is under these conditions that the achievements of the Beninese revolution can be safeguarded.

CAPE VERDE

Airline Banned for Transporting UNITA Arms

LD190530 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese
0100 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Sal Airport in Cape Verde was being used as a stop-over in the transport of arms supplies for UNITA in Angola. For this reason Cape Verde Minister of Transport Osvaldo Lopes da Silva has banned Saint Lucia Airways from Sal.

A letter from the foreign minister of the small Caribbean country of Saint Lucia raised the alarm. The Cape Verdean authorities investigated the route taken by the aircraft and found strong indications that it was carrying arms for UNITA. Minister Osvaldo Lopes da Silva has accused Saint Lucia Airways of abusing Cape Verde's good faith.

GHANA

Commentary Criticizes Togolese Acts, Allegations

AB181434 Accra Domestic Service in English
1300 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Kwasi Appiah Ameyaw commentary]

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has rightly made strong representation to the Togolese authorities who have of late conducted various activities along its border with Ghana. Ever since the attempted coup against Eyadema last September, Togo has conducted its affairs in a manner which could best be described as unfriendly against another neighboring sovereign nation. From the beginning, Togo accused Ghana unjustifiably as an aggressor and succeeded in bringing French troops to its territory who went on to violate Ghana's territory. Ghanaians in Togo were harassed and in some cases tortured in Togolese cells. Ghana stomached these provocations, at first thinking sanity will soon prevail in Togo. The Ghana Government pledged to help in its investigations but no response came from that country. After 5 months, the Togolese authorities conceded that there was no truth in their allegations that Ghanaians were involved in the attempts to overthrow Eyadema. And one would have thought that normal friendly relations would resume. But this has not been the case.

According to an official statement handed over to the Togolese charge d'affaires about the activities of officials of the Togolese Government, many disturbing incidents have happened. Togo has erected a barbed wire fence along the border, thus cutting off the source of drinking water to some Ghanaian villages. Pillars have been removed from the border area and Togolese soldiers, numbering about 200, have been sent to one area. Worst of all, some Ghanaians have been arrested along the border and there are reports of stockpiling of arms and ammunition at Nagane, a village in Togo that borders (Tangibong) in Ghana.

One does not know the reason behind these actions which could be described as most provocative.

If Togo has any problem along the border, it could call a meeting of the Ghana-Togo border commission where any issue concerning the border could be amicably settle. Amassing troops along its border, threatening lives and property are unfriendly acts. Ghana has emphasized that she is determined to protect and defend her territorial integrity. Just as no country would allow her colonial boundaries to be tampered with, so would Ghana. It is hoped that Togolese authorities would seriously think about the consequences of their actions and withdraw their troops from the border to the original frontiers. Ghana does not harbor any ill feeling against Togo.

Ghana's position was made clear when it allowed a Togolese delegation led by its foreign minister to attend the 30th independence anniversary celebrations. Ghana has stated over and over again that its revolution poses no threat to any other government.

If the Togolese leader has any internal problems, he should not hide behind imaginary threats from Ghana and divert attention from decades of misrule. Hanging on the apron strings of its colonial master to venture into such unproductive acts will not help to avert the inevitability of a people's wrath against misrule and dictatorship.

Soviets To Help Rehabilitate Technical Institute

AB182255 Accra Domestic Service in English
2000 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Ghana and the Soviet Union today signed a 50 million cedis supplementary agreement on the rehabilitation of the Tema Technical Institute. The agreement is the third for the project. The first was in 1983, and the second in 1985. The agreement covers the construction of a foundry at the institute, and the provision of 15 Soviet experts to join three others already on the staff of the school. The agreement also covers linguistic laboratory equipment, film materials, and stationery for the institute. Already 80 percent of the institute's equipment, which has been abandoned since 1966, has been rehabilitated.

In an address before the signing ceremony, the secretary for education and culture, Dr Mohamed Ben Abdallah, said the institute has a very vital role to play in the economic recovery program, since it will train spare parts manufacturers, industrial mechanics, and other middle-level technical manpower. It will also provide the necessary staff for the junior secondary schools.

The Soviet ambassador to Ghana, Mr Vyacheslav Semenov, said although the Soviet Union has a lot of higher level engineers, it also places emphasis on middle-level personnel. He expressed the hope for a fruitful exchange of experience between the two countries.

IVORY COAST

Foreign Dignitaries Arrive for Funeral

AB182315 Abidjan Domestic Service in French
1930 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Yamoussoukro, like the rest of the Ivory Coast, is in mourning. It is welcoming brothers, friends, and acquaintances who have come to mourn President Houphouet-Boigny's late sister, Madam Pauquand Marie-Therese Adjoua, affectionately called Mamie Adjoua by loved ones. Ivorians and their African and foreign friends have come to support Houphouet-Boigny and [word indistinct] in this time of grief. Tomorrow the last respects will be paid to Mamie Adjoua, a final homage to the illustrious deceased.

Some heads of state have already arrived, proving that the whole world sympathizes with the Ivory Coast and President Houphouet-Boigny in the face of his great grief. Those who were unable to come have sent messages of condolence to President Houphouet-Boigny. [passage omitted]

Several delegations have arrived at Yamoussoukro airport. Our correspondent, Bernard Ake, reports:

[Begin recording] [Ake] [passage omitted] At 1130 this morning, [Gabonese] President El Hadj Omar Bongo's Fokker-28 plane landed at Yamoussoukro airport. In the same plane was Mr Odinga-Oba, minister of foreign affairs of Congo, representing President Denis Sassou-Nguesso. [passage omitted]

At 1430 an Air Afrique DC-8 plane brought President Samuel Doe to represent Liberia. [passage omitted] Shortly after the arrival of President Doe, the Mystere-20 plane of Madam Therese (Pirioua), sister of President Andre Kolingba of the Central African Republic, landed. [passage omitted] At 1530 the Fokker-28 of the People's Republic of Benin landed with President Matthieu Kerekou. [passage omitted] While Presient Kerekou was receiving military honors, the plane of [Togolese] President Eyadema landed. [passage omitted] [Niger] President Seyni Kountche arrived at 1600. All members of the Entente Council are now present. [passage omitted]

The Cameroonian delegation led by President Paul Biya himself was welcomed at 1700. One may also note that the OAU secretary general [Ide Oumarou] is leading the delegation of the pan-African organization. [passage omitted]

It was at 1800 that Mrs Abdou Diouf [wife of Senegalese president] arrived on a Boeing-727 plane. All guests on arrival expressed their sympathy with the Ivorian head of state and extended to him their condolences in his time of grief. They will take part this evening in the prayer vigil at 2100.

Presidents Moussa Traore [of Mali] and Thomas Sankara [of Burkina Faso] are expected tomorrow morning. Tomorrow is the third and last day of Mamie Adjoua's funeral. [end recording]

LIBERIA

Senate President Denies Banning of LINSU

AB181149 Monrovia ELWA Radio in English
0309 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] The president pro tempore of the Liberian Senate, Senator John G. Rancy, has clarified that the Liberian Legislature has no plans to ban the Liberian National Student Union, LINSU, as reported in the media recently. He said although the Senate Standing Committee on Education, headed by Maryland County Senator John Manston, was studying how to change the name of LINSU to that of Liberian Student Association, the Liberian Senate has no intention to ban the organization.

University Suspends Classes Over Back Pay Strike

AB181815 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
1710 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Reports just reaching us say classes at the University of Liberia, UL, have been suspended indefinitely following 3 days of go-slow by workers and instructional staff of the institution in demand of their salary arrears. This is the second time classes at the university have been suspended as a result of strike action by workers in demand of salary payment since the school reopened in January this year for the second semester of 1986.

President of the university, Dr Joseph Morris, took the decision today following the disruption of classes at the main campus of the university by students who could not attend classes at the (Fenwen) campus as a result of strike action by the university drivers. Dr Morris told the students that the problem of salary payment was beyond the control of the university administration, adding, the problem is a national one. He said he had made every effort to have the workers paid on time, but found it difficult to do so in view of the current economic problems facing the country. The UL president informed the students that the institution had been issued checks more than 3 weeks ago, but could not have them cashed, adding, the manager of Citibank in Monrovia said he does not have enough cash.

Earlier, the president of the University of Liberia Students' Union, Mr Samuel Woods, told his fellow students that he had advised the UL administration to suspend classes until it solved the salary problem, but added, the administration was indecisive and waited for the crisis moment to act.

Classes To Resume 19 March

AB190733 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
0709 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] A report just coming in on the LU [Liberia University] story says that Dr Joseph G. Borris has clarified reports that classes at the University of Liberia will resume as normal today. This was released in a television newscast last evening.

NIGERIA

University in Kaduna State Reopens 18 Mar

AB181916 Kaduna Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Work resumed today at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, after the closure due to the recent crisis in the state. In a statement, the registrar, Malam Abdulrahim, advised the staff to interact fully and avoid rumors that could cause misunderstanding among them.

In a related development, the staff of the Federal Government Girls College, (Zakori), are to resume work on Friday. A statement by the principal, Mrs (Robinson), said all students are expected to start normal classes on Monday [23 March].

All schools in the state [Kaduna] are to reopen on the same day while boarders are expected back on Sunday, the 22d of this month.

Education Minister Urges Schools To Ensure Peace

AB181928 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Educational institutions in the country have been told to ensure that the crises which cause pain and suffering to Nigerians do not start from the campuses any more. The minister of education, Prof Jubril Aminu, said the institutions of learning should be a source of comfort and not of grief to the society. Nigerians, he remarked, have faith in education and in the educated man, and this faith must be maintained through good work.

Professor Aminu was speaking in Lagos today when he received the report of the visitation panel into the University of Ife. He called particularly on the students, staff, and managers of the University of Ife to cooperate with their administration, council, and the government for the progress of the institution and the country.

The report of the panel covers fiscal policy, accounting, and other financial matters, including revenue generation. The chairman of the 5-member visitation panel, Mr Justice Umaru Kaogo, described the University of Ife as a complex community with numerous problems, but which were surmountable. Mr Justice

Kaogo said that the recommendations and reports provided ready answers to problems in the university and could also be used as a model for other federal universities.

The University of Ife visitation panel was one of five such panels set up last year to look into the activities of the other federal universities. The other four panels for the Universities of Ibadan, Lagos, Benin, and Ahmadu Bello, Zaria, had earlier submitted their reports.

The Ministry of Education indicated today that (?performance) visitations into other federal universities would be instituted soon, starting with the University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

Minister Concerned For Students In Bulgaria

AB181605 Lagos International Service in English
0830 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Nigeria has called on Bulgaria to relax some of her rules to enable Nigerian students to take jobs there. Education Minister Jubril Aminu, who received the Bulgarian ambassador to Nigeria, Dimitur Ivanov, said this would help the students to take care of themselves. The minister expressed concern over the welfare of Nigerian students in Bulgaria and said that students should be able to adapt to situations in foreign places.

Ambassador Ivanov was hopeful that with the Bulgarian assistance Nigeria could produce technical workshops. He said Nigerian students in Bulgaria lived within the law.

Commentary Stresses Need for Medium Powers Group

AB181124 Lagos International Service in English
0830 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Alex Ekeanyanwu commentary]

[Text] When Nigeria's external affairs minister, Prof Bolaji Akinyemi, floated the idea of a grouping of medium powers last year, some observers of the international environment wondered how the idea could be consumated although they saw the need for such a power block. Their doubts centered mainly on the yardstick for identifying a country as a medium power. Perhaps, in an attempt to throw more light on his proposal, Professor Akinyemi defined a medium power as a state that has a high degree of regional influence and prestige and which shares a strong commitment and nonalignment in international affairs. While this definition may not generally meet some people's concept of a medium power, it is, however, adequate at this stage of exploratory talks. Whatever differences there may be on the issue of definition will be outweighed by the compelling need by some countries to assert themselves in the international system.

Many parts of the world have become theaters of war and zones of instability, and because of the interdependent nature of the global system, many countries of the world may close their eyes to these developments to their peril. For decades now, nations of the world had lived under the shadows of the United States and the Soviet Union. These two countries divided the world into East and West and proceeded to build worlds of alliances around themselves. Through these arrangements, global peace or instability seem to be anchored on the relationship between the United States and the Soviet Union. But in recent years, some countries of the Third World have become more and more aware of the influence they can yield on contemporary international issues if they act in concert. That is to say, they have come of age and as such have their own trump cards to influence events on the slippery grounds of international politics.

In South America, countries like Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, and Mexico can easily be identified. In Africa, south of the Sahara, Nigeria possesses certain attributes of power. Therefore, without necessarily being egocentric, Nigeria has the potentials of being a medium power. The same can be said of Senegal and strategically located Zimbabwe. Among countries in Asia, India, Pakistan, and Indonesia come under this grouping. India has emerged as a self-sufficient military and industrial society. Pakistan is widely believed to have acquired nuclear capability, a feat that was regarded as the exclusive preserve of the big powers and their allies.

That 16 countries are attending the meeting in Lagos, including Austria, Algeria, Egypt, Sweden, Switzerland, and Yugoslavia, is an indication of the consensus of views among many nations on the desirability of the grouping of medium powers.

What this means, in effect, is that the world is approaching a situation when the superpowers can no longer dictate all the tunes. So far, the cumulative effects of the development efforts of these countries tend to make the big powers uncomfortable. Their stand on UNESCO and subsequent withdrawal of some of them is a case in point. Consequently, they have devised all sorts of strategies to make the medium powers conform to their conception of the international system.

Through the instrumentality of organs like the International Monetary Fund, they have sought to suppress these emerging powers, especially those of them going through difficult economic problems. The medium powers understand that over the years, their association with the great powers has been akin to a master-servant relationship. The height some of them have attained in the field of technology makes it imperative that they come closer together in a cooperative organization or alliance. If the medium powers can achieve this type of coherence, they will be in a position to play down the role of the big powers. In effect, the emergence of an alliance of medium powers will play a complementary role to the Nonalignment Movement. It should form a bridge linking the poor nations with the rich and powerful ones.

SENEGAL

Opposition Leader Wade Received By Diouf

AB181039 Paris AFP in French 2127 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Dakar, 17 Mar (AFP) — President Abdou Diouf of Senegal today granted an audience to Abdoulaye Wade, leader of the Senegalese Democratic Party (PDS), an official release announced.

Mr Wade, who was granted the audience at his own request, a reliable source said, was accompanied by a delegation consisting of Ousmane Ngom and Laye Diop Diatta, members of his party's directorate.

The audience, which observers say falls within the framework of the policy to ease tension in Senegalese political life, is the second one granted to Wade by President Diouf. The first audience took place in August 1983.

The content of the discussions has not yet been disclosed, but political analysts believe it was related to the forthcoming 1988 general elections and the reexamination of the electoral code for which the opposition parties have been asking. [passage omitted]

Opposition Issues Communique

AB190850 Paris AFP in French 1901 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Dakar, 18 Mar (AFP) — The audience granted by the Senegalese president to Abdoulaye Wade, leader of the main Senegalese opposition party, the PDS, did not result in a convergence of views, a communique issued by the opposition party points out.

According to the communique, President Diouf did not provide, or promise to provide, any solutions to the various issues submitted to him by the PDS, which concern notably the revision of the electoral code, the opposition's access to the media, and the harassment to which, according to the communique, the opposition is subjected.

The meeting, the first between Mr Wade and the president since August 1983, which was seen by observers as the beginning of a thaw in political life, lasted 20 minutes.

According to the PDS communique, the president said he was upset and angered by the nature of democracy in Senegal, and observed that dialogue had been broken with the PDS since August 1983. He stated that he would personally ensure that the next general elections (scheduled for 1988) take place normally, but he did not intend to modify the electoral code. Mr Wade, the communique said, replied that the president's response did not satisfy him.

Concerning harassments to which the opposition is subjected, President Diouf said he believed the police had a duty to interrogate citizens when such citizens make defamatory and seditious statements at public meetings. He also stated for the first time, concerning Mr Wade's indictment for connivance in the propagation of false news and insults against the president, that he had never complained about this.

Finally, concerning the PDS dissidents (led by the Member of Parliament Serigne Diop) who continue to claim membership in that party and conduct political activities under the same emblem, the president said it was an issue of legitimacy to be settled by the courts.

Mr Wade, who feels the government aids the PDS dissidents by placing radio and television media at their disposal, called on the government to respect legal bodies and not to allow any group to claim to be a party without producing the necessary document of certification.

TOGO

GUNT Envoy Comments on Meeting With Eyadema

AB181700 Lome Domestic Service in French
1230 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] President Eyadema this morning granted a series of audiences, the first of which was to a Chadian delegation from the GUNT. The GUNT delegation comprises Maina Touka Sonahaye, adviser to President Goukouni Oueddei, leader of the delegation; and Abdoulaye Younouss, in charge of missions at the Presidency of the GUNT. They were sent by their leader to deliver a message to President Eyadema. The audience took place in the presence of Yaovi Adodo, member of the Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation.

After the audience with the president, the leader of the delegation, Maina Touka, told reporters that he came to deliver President Goukouni Oueddei's expression of gratitude to General Eyadema for the immense efforts he has been making for Chad for many years. Concerning the ongoing fighting in the country, President Goukouni Oueddei's emissary stated that GUNT forces have, since last October, joined [Chadian] President Hissein Habre's FANT to drive out the Libyan invaders. Let's listen to the GUNT emissary's statement this morning:

[Begin recording] [Touka] We have just been received by President Eyadema, Togolese president, to whom we delivered a message from President Goukouni. The main purpose of this message is to express his fraternal greetings and thanks for the immense efforts that President Eyadema has been making for Chad and the Chadian people for so many years. President Goukouni expressed his gratitude to him.

Furthermore, we were quite touched by the concern shown by President Eyadema, first, for promptly receiving us upon our arrival, and also for the interest he shows and continues to show for the Chadian people. The main theme of President Goukouni's message to President Eyadema is that President Goukouni wants to accelerate the process of national reconciliation from his base in Algiers; he wants to bring together all Chadians of every political persuasion wherever they may be, and tell them that the hour for peace, harmony, and unity in Chad has come. This is the theme of the message.

[Unidentified reporter] How does President Goukouni plan to translate this national reconciliation into concrete terms from his base in Algiers?

[Touka] From his base in Algiers, President Goukouni Oueddei has been making contacts with all political factions in Chad; he is in contact with the various factions that have understood the Libyan danger. Various emissaries of President Goukouni have been making contacts, even during his absence, on his behalf. So after consultations with all these different political factions in Chad, President Goukouni intends to contact immediately all

Chadian political leaders in Chad or elsewhere so national reconciliation can be translated into concrete terms.

We therefore think the Chadian issue is not for Chad alone, it is an African issue that not only affects Chad's neighboring countries but the whole of Africa. In this regard, President Goukouni calls on the OAU to take its responsibilities in a more dynamic and realistic way so things will work out the way the Chadian people want them to — that is, toward a real and sincere national reconciliation.

[Unidentified reporter] Yesterday, Goukouni Oueddei and Hissein Habre were fighting one another; today things have changed; Goukouni's forces have joined those of President Hissein Habre. One wonders whom you are fighting in Chad.

[Touka] Since October 1986, 17 October 1986, to be precise, you might have learned from the press that President Goukouni, by his statement, exposed the true face of Libya — its expansionist and annexationist face, and consequently, Machiavellian. From then on, President Goukouni, through his aide, Adam Togoi, operated a military alliance with Hissein Habre's FANT. From that time, there has been a spectacular change in the situation; the understanding and the perception of the real danger hanging over Chad, that is the danger of the breaking up and disappearance of Chad, came out clearly. There is no doubt that since last October, our troops have fought side by side with FANT troops against the Libyan invaders, because we find ourselves at a very dangerous crossroad. It is the breaking up of our fatherland, the threat of the very disappearance of Chad that is hanging over our country. It is a collective awakening of conscience within the Army and within political circles close to President Goukouni. President Goukouni has made it clear to our troops at the war front who are fighting the Libyan invading forces day and night, as well as to the various political factions I mentioned earlier, that the principles of national sovereignty and territorial integrity are sacred principles on which we cannot compromise and on which we cannot negotiate.

So since that time, our troops have been fighting the Libyan occupying forces, and the fighting will continue. Even yesterday, President Goukouni Oueddei ordered everyone to continue fighting until we achieve the total liberation of our territory. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Speaks on Border Incident Issue

AB191543 Paris AFP in French GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Lome, 19 Mar (AFP) — Togolese Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Yaovi Adodo met the press today in Lome to make clarifications concerning the allegations of the Ghanaian authorities who accused Togo on 18 March of causing incidents at the common border of the two countries.

After indicating that he had sent an unsigned memorandum to the Ghanaian Government through Ghana's charge d'affaires in Lome, Mr Adodo refuted Ghana's allegations point by point, saying that they had no foundation.

Mr Adodo, however, confirmed that a barbed-wire fence had been erected along a section of the border, specifying that the Ghanaian authorities had been informed before the implementation of this measure, which had been taken because of the extreme permeability of the border.

Togo, Mr Adodo further said, is not aware of the disappearance of pillars on the border between the two countries and has never sent 200 soldiers to any section of the border, as alleged in the protest note from the Accra government handed to the Togolese charge d'affaires in Accra on 17 March by Secretary for Foreign Affairs Obed Asamoah.

The note referred especially to many border incidents, including the unjustified annexation of a Ghanaian village by the Togolese Army and the construction of a wall along the border in the region of Lome, the capital city.

Border Tour With Benin Ends; Communique Issued

AB181034 Lome Domestic Service in French
1900 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Excerpts] The joint information tour, aimed at briefing the inhabitants of the Togo-Benin border areas, embarked upon on 3 March by Kpotivi Tevi Djidjorgbe Lacle, RPT Political Bureau member, minister of justice, and keeper of the seals, and Beninese Interior Minister Lieutenant Colonel Zodehougan ended this afternoon. (Setadi Batsamlan), you covered this tour for us:

[(Batsamlan)] Indeed, Kodjovi Gbadzayi, Kpotivi Tevi Djidjorgbe Lacle, RPT Political Bureau member, minister of justice, and keeper of the seals; and Lt Col Zodehougan, Beninese minister of interior in charge of public security and territorial administration, this afternoon ended their joint information tour of the Togo-Benin border areas. [passage omitted] During this tour of the extreme northern border areas between Togo and Benin, the two ministers, for 7 days alternately visited 11 border areas in Togolese territory and 10 zones in the Republic of Benin. In all the areas visited, the two ministers briefed the people on the problems of security, on the Togo-Benin border, and on safeguarding our flora and fauna.

This important joint Togo-Benin tour by the two Togolese and Beninese ministers was crowned by a joint Togolese-Beninese communique. This communique specifies that, during the meetings organized during the tour, the minister transmitted peace messages to the people from Presidents Eyadema of Togo and Kerekou of Benin. Here is an excerpt of this communique in which it was stressed that, for Presidents Kerekou and Eyadema, peace remains the primordial factor for all harmonious economic development of the People's Republic of Benin and Togo and as well as for the entire West African region.

[Begin unidentified reporter recording] In fact, for the two presidents — Eyadema and Kerekou — only peace and political stability can enable their people to devote themselves freely and entirely to the development efforts. It is in this light that the two ministers exhorted the border dwellers to contribute to the maintenance of this peaceful atmosphere. They also asked them to increase their efforts at work to improve their standard of living and to protect the flora and fauna by fighting poaching and bushfires and by planting trees to prevent desertification, which has been threatening our subregion.

During their tour, the two ministers reminded the two peoples that they must live in harmony and brotherhood because they are linked by blood, history, and culture. They also reminded the border dwellers of the readiness of the two governments to guarantee the free movement of persons and property between the two countries. The two ministers noted with satisfaction that since the first tour in 1984, the individual and collective behavior of the border dwellers has contributed to the strengthening of the fraternal and peaceful relations existing between the two peoples. They also noted with great joy the high degree of mobilization and militancy of the inhabitants of the areas visited both on Togolese and Beninese territories. They therefore urged them to pursue this path and asked the local political and administrative authorities to deligently resolve, through dialogue and consultation, the problems that may arise between the two peoples.

The inhabitants of the areas visited welcomed with enthusiasm and real satisfaction the messages of the two illustrious leaders to whom they expressed their joy and profound gratitude for their constant and benevolent solicitude. They freely expressed their unflinching adherence to the messages brought to them by the two ministers and expressed their commitment to collaborate with the local political and administrative authorities to strengthen the relations of good-neighborliness and peaceful and brotherly relations between the two countries.

The tour took place in an atmosphere of strong brotherhood and mutual understanding, which demonstrates the excellent relations between the two states as well as the determination of the two great leaders to work together toward the well-being of their peoples within an atmosphere of lasting peace and permanent security along their borders.

Satisfied with the very fraternal and militant welcome accorded to them and the members of their delegations, the two ministers sincerely thanked the inhabitants and local political and administrative authorities of the areas visited for their warm and particularly African welcome. [passage omitted] [end recording]

ANGOLA

Government Troops Kill 50 UNITA Fighters in Feb

MB181343 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Angolan Government troops are reported to have killed 50 members of the UNITA movement in the country's northern provinces during the third week of February. Most of the details are given in the report carried by the official Angolan news agency. Last week UNITA said it killed 59 Angolan troops and destroyed 30 vehicles in attacks on government forces during the first week of March.

Ambassador Delivers Message to Portugal's Soares

MB190906 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] A message from Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, MPLA-Labor Party chairman and president of the People's Republic of Angola, was delivered in Lisbon today to Portuguese President Mario Soares. The Angolan ambassador in Lisbon, Comrade Mwaete Joao Baptista, delivered the message.

The contents of the message are not known but they might be related to the new understanding in the friendship and cooperation ties between the People's Republic of Angola and Portugal. The understanding between the two countries has been difficult due to the lack of solutions to several political issues but has entered a new phase with the visit to Lisbon of the dean of the Angolan diplomacy, who, with members of the Portuguese Government, discussed several issues hampering [words indistinct] the relations between Angola and Portugal.

MALAWI

Trade Minister Opposes Sanctions Against RSA

MB181746 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 18 Mar 87

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] There has been much talk recently of sanctions being imposed on South Africa by the Frontline States. Both Zimbabwe and Zambia have been making statements in the last week. Malawi is one country which makes no secret of its well-established links with South Africa, and in a major speech at the end of January, Malawi's Life President Dr Hastings Banda accused other Frontline States of keeping quiet about their own links with Pretoria. Wadson Deleza is Malawi's minister of trade, industry, and tourism. Kwabena Mensah was in Zomba recently and asked him what Malawi's current position was with regard to sanctions.

[Begin recording] [Deleza] Malawi's position on trade sanctions by the Frontline States against South Africa has always been spelled out by our leader His Excellency Life President Ngwazi Hastings Kamuzu Banda, but as much as Malawi is opposed to the system of apartheid, we prefer to approach the issues of this nature through contact and dialogue. Therefore, Malawi will not support any idea of any country within the subregion to impose trade sanctions.

[Mensah] Is Malawi's position against sanctions purely because it believes that dialogue is the best way forward?

[Deleza] That is one of the reasons, but another reason which is quite clear is that any attempt to impose sanctions by any country within the subregion on South Africa, the effect would be the reverse.

[Mensah] But don't you think the life president was being provocative by describing other African countries as being like a Nicodemus — going to Jesus Christ at night?

[Deleza] His excellency the life president was speaking what is the truth. The fact still remains that Malawi is open in its dealings but it is also a fact that there are some countries within this subregion who have dealings with the country in question.

[Mensah] And what sort of links are they, that they have with South Africa?

[Deleza] There are trade links there.

[Mensah] When you say trade links, do you mean open trade links; do you mean missions?

[Deleza] Open trade links, one, and even having trade missions in South Africa.

[Mensah] Some people listening to you from outside this region would say that your position is dictated purely by the fact that Malawi already has extensive links with South Africa and that South Africa is powerful enough to put pressure on you to take a stand against sanctions and they will always be able to do that.

[Deleza] It is not a question of pressure from South Africa on Malawi. Malawi is an independent sovereign state. Malawi has a leader, a leader who knows what he is doing, a leader who formulates policies which I and all the people in this country consider as wise policies.

[Mensah] All the people of this country?

[Deleza] Exactly. [end recording]

MOZAMBIQUE

Government Forces Gaining Ground in Zambezia

MB181339 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] The struggle for peace so desired by our people continues. Our forces are continuing their clean-up operations in Zambezia Province, recently the main target of the armed bandits. Four armed bandit camps were assaulted and destroyed recently in Gurue and Alto Molocue Districts. During the skirmishes, an agent of the armed bandits was captured, and war materiel belonging to the armed bandits was destroyed. In these operations, 56 civilians living under the bandits' yoke were released by our forces. Step by step, shot by shot, and camp by camp, we are attaining peace in order to achieve well-being for all.

Frelimo Party Reshuffle At Provincial Level

MB190848 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0400 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] A number of party reshuffles at provincial and district levels were carried out in Nampula yesterday. Accordingly, the secretaries for organization, mobilization, economy, and defense of the Frelimo Party Provincial Committee were relieved of their duties. The chiefs of the economy and organization departments have also been relieved of their duties.

These reshuffles follow the 11th Frelimo Party Provincial Committee Session held in Nampula. New cadres, meanwhile, have been appointed. The first party secretary and governor of Nampula Province has appointed new administrators for the Namapa, Moma, Mecuburi, Memba, Meconta, Muecate, Nampula, and Mozambique Island Districts. He has also appointed the first secretaries and chairmen of the Nampula and Nacala cities and executive councils, respectively.

NAMIBIA

53 SWAPO 'Insurgents' Killed in 'Last 10 Days'

MB181312 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1220 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Windhoek March 18 SAPA — Security forces in northern SWA/Namibia shot and killed 53 SWAPO insurgents in the last 10 days and lost two men in action, the SWA Territory Force said in Windhoek today. The SWATF losses were Lance Corporal Erickson Nangula, 21, who leaves his mother at Ondjondjo, and Rfn Matheus Moses, 21, who leaves a brother at Omalala.

The death of another member of the security forces was announced by the South African Defence Force Headquarters in Pretoria yesterday.

The latest SWAPO fatalities brought to 351 the number of insurgents killed to date this year.

The SWATF said in a statement that after a two-year absence members of PLAN [People's Liberation Army of Namibia] — SWAPO's military wing — special unit, known as "Typhoon", were encountered in the operational area. "The unit is apparently being employed by PLAN to boost the capabilities of the usual terrorists in Ovambo" who had suffered severe losses, the SWATF said. Typhoon members were not familiar with circumstances in Ovambo in northern SWA/Namibia and 21 of the special unit insurgents had been killed since March 12.

The SWATF statement said SWAPO insurgents had launched a stand-off bombardment on the home of an Ovambo executive member, Mr Daniel Shooya, on March 15 at 10:30pm. The home of a neighbour, a Headman Nkoto, also came under fire at Omesi in northern SWA/Namibia, but the insurgents were driven off and there was no damage. Three hours later, insurgents attacked a village about 10km north-west of Etale in northern SWA/Namibia, but the homeguard repelled the attackers and there was no damage.

Two civilians were killed by insurgents in eastern Ovambo, the SWATF said, and two civilians, Mr Petrus Antolini and Mr Kefas Tomata were abducted on Friday night after insurgents had forced their vehicle to stop.

"The increased terrorist activity is attributed to pressure on PLAN units to carry out their instructions in the annual wet season as soon as possible," the SWATF said.

SWAPO Rejects Delegation's Cease-Fire Proposal

MB190745 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0703 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Windhoek, March 19, SAPA — SWAPO rejected a proposal by a German-speaking interest group from SWA/Namibia that it should institute a four-week ceasefire to demonstrate the organisations commitment to striving for peace, SWABC Radio news reported in Windhoek today. SWAPO also reiterated that it was not interested in entering into negotiations with other SWA/Namibian political parties on implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 435 concerning the territory's independence.

A member of the delegation, Mr Manfred Hoth, who met SWAPO office-bearers on a week-long visit to Zimbabwe and Zambia last week, said SWAPO has informed the 14-member visiting group that the organisation was prepared to speak only to the South African Government on the issue.

The interest group — the Interessengemeinschaft (IG) — meanwhile expressed its concern about South Africa's not making a concerted effort to hold talks with SWAPO. The political pressure group accused South Africa of delaying SWA/Namibian independence until it has achieved a certain amount of stability in its own future political outlook. That process could take another 15 years, the IG said.

Mr Hoth said the SWAPO executive and all involved parties in SWA/Namibia should make a definitive attempt to obtain independence for the territory. It should be done in such a way that independence could not and would not be ignored by the international community and South Africa. During the IG delegation's visit to the two countries, political leaders and other groups had made no distinction between South Africa and SWA/Namibia, he said.

SWAPO's Nujoma, Uruguayan Foreign Minister Meet

MB181502 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] SWAPO President Sam Nujoma and Uruguayan Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias analyzed the prevailing situation in

Namibia and South Africa during a meeting held last Monday [16 March], in Montevideo. You will recall that Sam Nujoma is visiting Latin American countries, having already been to Brazil.

Further Reportage

For Uruguayan media coverage of the visit of SWAPO President Sam Nujoma to the Republic of Uruguay, see the Uruguay section of the 19 March Latin America *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

SOUTH AFRICA

KwaMashu Killings Linked to Anti-UDF 'Terror'

MB181517 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] The reign of terror appears to be claiming UDF supporters in Natal. Carmel Rickard reports the seven youths killed in Durban KwaMashu Township are all linked to the anti-apartheid organization.

[Rickard] The seven school boys whose bodies were found in KwaMashu yesterday are believed to have been members of the UDF-affiliated KwaMashu Youth League. Responding to the killing, UDF publicity secretary Lechesa Tsenoli said his organization believed developments in the township were serious. The UDF had held meetings to discuss a strategy in response to the mass killings of its members in Natal, and would soon be announcing in their plans to deal with the situation. Durban police said their investigations into the murders seemed promising and that there could be an arrest soon. Meanwhile, school attendance in the township is very low. Many pupils say they aren't going because they fear further attacks.

Party Spokesmen Discuss 'Extremism' in Politics

MB182102 Johannesburg Television Service in Afrikaans 1830 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Report on separate interviews with Frank Martin, New Republic Party, NRP, Natal leader: Tom Langley, CP MP for Soutpansberg; and Chris Heunis, minister of constitutional development and planning and member of the National Party, by an unidentified reporter, Riaan Nel, and Louis de Villiers, on the "Network" program introduced by Kolie van Koller; videorecorded passages in quotation marks]

[Text] [Van Koller] In tonight's election feature we examine extremism in South African politics. Members of our political staff asked representatives of the NP, CP, and NRP for their views on this issue.

[Martin, in English] "We believe extremists in any country serve no useful purpose, whether they are on the left or the right of the political spectrum. They are part and parcel of the same problem.

[Unidentified reporter, in English] "Let's talk for a moment specifically about left-wing extremism.

[Martin] "Left-wing extremism in South Africa, I believe, has to be encouraged, by every means possible, to get them to the negotiating table to talk.

[Reporter] "And right-wing extremism?

[Martin] "The same thing. They must be made to realize that there is only one solution to our problems, and it is not a violent one. It can be a peaceful one, provided people are ready to talk.

[Reporter] "How do you feel this whole question of political extremism in South Africa should be resolved?

[Martin] "Well, I believe that a body, a responsible body, such as the government, which calls the talks, must be absolutely sincere in getting people to the table. We have recently found in Natal, with the Natal-KwaZulu Indaba, that people were very skeptical but they came to the table to talk, and they were convinced that we were sincere, and so they stayed and concluded their proposition put to the Indaba. I believe the same thing can be done at national level. If there is a will to do it, and there is sincerity to do it, only the madmen and women on either fringe will refuse to come to the table for talks.

[Reporter] "So you feel we should bring both the extreme left-wing and extreme right-wing to the negotiating table?

[Martin] "Yes, I am. [as heard] I believe we all have to live in this beautiful country of ours together, and therefore we must make every effort to see that we come up with a solution. And we will not find solutions if we exclude this or that group. We must try and get as many people, reasonable people, together as possible."

[Langley, in Afrikaans] "If you ask me what I think about extremism, it depends on the angle from which I view the issue. I think that in discussing extremism we should take note of what President Steyn once said about moderation. He wrote to Senator F.S. Malan: I fear one thing and that is the word moderate. This, in my opinion, is synonymous with lack of principles. My experience is that if one calls himself a moderate, it usually means he is immoderate, especially when it comes to sacrificing his nation's rights. [preceding sentence in Dutch] I would like to put it this way — I think society has a balance of views, and you always have people who can be labelled extremists. I think such people must generally be treated properly, as part of the community.

[Nel] "Do you admit both right- and left-wing extremism exist?

[Langley] "I imagine that one can speak of extremism on both the left and the right. Leftist extremists would be the more revolutionary aggressors, while rightists would be more fundamentalists, the man who stands up for that in which he believes, the basics, the fundamentals.

[Nel] "You are saying, then, that extremism, in the true sense of the word, is only found on the left? How should this be addressed?

[Langley] "I do not think that we have a real manifestation of right-wing extremism here in South Africa of the kind found in some European countries in the 1930's.

[Nell] "This extremism on the left, how do you propose that it be controlled?

[Langley] "Let me say the true extremists, who can be seen as supporters of communism, and the ANC, people who are sowing murder and destruction by means of terror, landmines, bombs, and necklaces, — murder, destruction — these people should be dealt with very strongly, because they are revolutionaries, and their onslaught is aimed at the existing order. You must protect and maintain that order with all means at your disposal."

[De Villiers] "What is your view on political extremism in the South African context?

[Heunis] "It depends in the first place on how you define extremism. In any free country in the world, there is freedom of speech but it is not unqualified. When people abuse that freedom of speech, break the laws of a country, then a civilized country would take steps against such abuse. So, if you are talking about that kind of extremism, I condemn it in the strongest terms. There are other forms, which are not necessarily against the law, but which result in the polarization of the society by playing racial groups off against each other. I believe this is totally criminal. I believe it should be condemned in the strongest terms. Then there are those who, while they do not break the law, follow leftist policy directions, which could lead to tension and conflict. I believe that any extremism, whether from the right or the left, is dangerous and ought to be condemned. That is the reason I say one should take the middle road of responsibility, reason, and balance.

[De Villiers] "In our particular circumstances, what is your attitude towards extremism on the right?

[Heunis] "I condemn it totally because it overemphasizes its own view at the cost of the interests of other groups. That necessarily leads to people reacting violently.

[De Villiers] "And the leftists?

[Heunis] "The same applies. And it all leads to the destruction of values, freedoms, and democracy.

[De villiers] "In your view, how should the government deal with extremism of either kind?

[Heunis] "If laws are broken, the laws of the country, I believe if violence is committed or weapons kept, hidden, whether by rightists or leftists, then it is to be condemned. It makes no difference who is responsible. But if no law is broken, the government should, by example, persuade people to act responsibly."

SABC Director Assures Balanced Election Coverage

MB181656 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] The director general of the SABC, Mr Riaan Eksteen, says the PFP has been given the assurance that the SABC has afforded the election campaign well-balanced coverage from the outset, and it will continue to inform the public comprehensively and fairly on the policies of the various political parties. Mr Eksteen was speaking after talks with the leader of the PFP, Mr Colin Eglin, and its media spokesman, Mr Dave Dalling, at the SABC today. He said that the SABC had taken conversance of the PFP standpoint on equal time for all political parties contesting the election.

Also present at the talks to discuss the corporation's coverage of the election campaign were the deputy director general of news of the SABC, Mr Kobus Hamman, and the senior director of news and external service, Mr Sakkie Burger.

Worrall Predicts New Party Based on Independents

MB181457 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1442 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Pretoria March 18 SAPA — The formation of a new political party within two years which would embrace the manifesto of the three independents standing in the general election for whites on May 6 was indicated today by South Africa's former London ambassador, Dr Denis Worrall. Dr Worrall, who is standing as an independent against the minister of constitutional development and planning, Mr Chris Heunis, in the Helderberg constituency, was responding to questions after he addressed a Pretoria Press Club luncheon.

Asked why he had not resigned his post at the Court of St James long before he in fact did so as to properly "mobilise" an organisation to present an alternative to voters Dr Worrall said the decision to resign had been a difficult one. He had not resigned as a result of "sour grapes" at his slow progress as a politician or to take his revenge on Mr Heunis, as NP propaganda was claiming, but because he felt a new initiative had to be emerge to get negotiations going and to break the mould of white politics in South Africa. This was the purpose of independents' standing in the May elections.

"But I believe that in two year's time (the next scheduled general election) I will be re-elected in Helderberg and I will not be as an independent," he said.

Dr Worrall said Helderberg voters and many hundreds of thousands of others would be sending a message to the government it had "delayed (reform) too long." Voters in Helderberg, Stellenbosch and Randburg, and the thousands in other constituencies who felt the mould of white politics had to be broken and the independents new initiative supported, would also be sending a message of goodwill to blacks in South Africa.

A message of hope would also be delivered to South Africa's friends overseas on May 6.

Independent-supporting voters in constituencies where there was only a candidate from one of the political parties should get a commitment from the person they would vote for that he or she would move towards the independents' standpoint.

Criticising the government's standpoint that it was asking for a mandate from voters to negotiate with blacks, Dr Worrall said its proposal for independent black city states — "Bantu Monacos" — insulted voters' intelligence. "This is yesteday's politics."

Dr Worrall also hit out at the National Party for "dragging the ANC — which is not party to this election — into the campaign over the last three days." If he had still been ambassador to London, he would have been "furious" at the actions of the minister of law and order, Mr Adriaan Vlok and the minister of finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, who had in fact enhanced the international prestige of the ANC in their election speeches. His and the government's policy while he was ambassador had been to play down the ANC as only one of many black organisations in South Africa but this had been turned around the last few days. "This is very short-sighted and irresponsible. It is perfectly scurrilous of the government to try and bring the ANC into the election...the ANC is not a party to the election." The ANC certainly had relevance in South Africa but as long as it promoted violence and showed no willingness to make compromises around the negotiation table it, just as radicals on the political left and right, had no place.

Eglin Sees Swelling 'Tide of Disillusionment'

MB181749 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1748 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Johannesburg Mar 18 SAPA — The tide of disillusionment with the government was becoming irresistible, the leader of the Progressive Federal Party, Mr Colin Eglin, said today. Speaking in Honeydew at his first election campaign meeting in the Transvaal, Mr Eglin said that if the PFP, the New Republic Party and the independent candidates did well in the election, the scene would be set for "the biggest shake-up in South African politics in over 50 years." He predicted that more votes than ever before would be cast for an apartheid-free South Africa.

Recent events, including the resignation of Dr Wimpie de Klerk as editor of *Rapport* and Dr Dawid de Villiers from the board of Nasionale Pers [National Press] showed that the tide of disillusionment with the government was becoming irresistible.

The alliance between the PFP and the NRP demonstrated that both parties were aware of the seriousness of the crisis facing South Africa. "They are prepared to put the broader interests of SA before the narrower interests of their political parties," Mr Eglin said. "I see the agreement between the PFP and the NRP as the forerunner of a broader alliance of moderate South Africans which — far sooner than anyone would have predicted a few months ago — will replace the National Party as the government of South Africa." "What started as a trickle of dissent has become an avalanche in favour of reform."

He said there could only be peace and prosperity once there was "a truly representative and democratic government." But the NP was simply incapable of bringing this about. "And the reason for this is that Mr Botha and his colleagues remain committed to race as the basis of their constitutional structures." It was this commitment that had finally driven the Stellenbosch academics and the independents to oppose their former party.

"By clinging stubbornly to the outdated apartheid concepts, the government is dragging us all down by damaging the economy and reducing the standard of living and the quality of life for millions of ordinary South Africans," Mr Eglin said. "A new alliance of moderate South Africans, who share the vision of a stable, prosperous, apartheid-free South Africa, must be created — an alliance that can form a strong, determined, alternative government."

Mr Eglin said a new constitution would have to be drawn up to allow all South Africans to take part in government without one group dominating the other. "There must be real participation by South Africans as South Africans. No more playing with words or running away from the fact that blacks will have to be in parliament."

Referring to security, he said action had to be taken against revolutionaries who took the law into their own hands and against terrorists who maimed and killed. But law and order and real stability could only be sustained if there were racial harmony based on justice for all.

Mr Eglin said the actions of a new, reformist government would restore confidence in South Africa and unlock the country's great potential.

The problems facing South Africans had to be solved by South Africans. "Our people must be united. Not just Afrikaners, or English, or whites, but all South Africans."

He referred to a statement by the minister of finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, at an election meeting, that it would be "unfair and unjust" for voters to cast their ballots on the basis of the present economic situation. "The fact is that the public...is having to pay through the nose for the incompetence, the wastefulness of the government" and "....for the object failure of the government's outdated apartheid policies."

The minister of national education, Mr F.W. de Klerk, had admitted that the government's theories were "on the rocks," Mr Eglin said.

"And now, after millions of rands of lost opportunity, lost trade, lost markets, lost manpower, and after millions more spent on forced removals and homeland consolidation and uneconomic decentralisation schemes, and non-viable independent states and the duplication, triplication and, at times, quadruplication of services, the minister of finance has the effrontery to say that it would be unfair and unjust for voters to vote on the basis of the present economic situation."

Rejects 'Crazy' NP Plan

MB181817 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1806 GMT
18 Mar 87

[Text] Johannesburg March 18 SAPA — The government's latest constitutional plan was "on the rocks" even before it was launched, the leader of the Progressive Federal Party, Mr Colin Eglin, said tonight. Speaking in Honeydew, he said the government should have resigned after the minister of national education, Mr F.W. de Klerk, admitted the failure of the NP's plan to establish local authorities for urban blacks and to give them votes in the homelands.

"Instead, the government is coming to the voters with another constitutional concoction that will not work. The Nat plan is a crazy anachronism even before it starts. It is on the rocks even before it is launched," Mr Eglin said at his first election meeting in the Transvaal.

By sticking to its 1981 plan, the NP had wasted nine valuable years, squandered options that were acceptable at the time and polarised attitudes at home and abroad. It would be too late if the government found out in another nine years that its latest plan also would not work, Mr Eglin said. The plan "reeked" of apartheid "heavily disguised as self-determination" and was merely a modernisation of apartheid. It was based on independent black states, separate black national states, separate black city states and separate black local authorities. "All of these are apartheid structures in a South Africa with an integrated economy and a society that is becoming increasingly shared."

No black leader with a sizeable constituency would enter into serious negotiation if the government's precondition was that enforced racial separation was the basis of the constitution. "I do not mind the Nats never learning," Mr Eglin said. "But I do resent the public of SA having to pay for their mistakes."

Malan Supports Mandela Release, ANC Talks

MB190644 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0100 GMT
19 Mar 87

[Text] Randburg, March 18, SAPA — The jailed leader of the African National Congress, Nelson Mandela, should be freed, Mr Wynand Malan, independent candidate for Randburg, said to thunderous applause in the local high school hall tonight. The packed audience of more than 1,000 responded approvingly when he said Mandela had to be freed to be able to take part in negotiations for equal rights, security and justice for all South Africans.

Answering questions for about 40 minutes after his first election address as an independent in his constituency, he said freeing Mandela under the present government would force the man to side with the armed struggle. However, Mr Malan said, if he was in power, he would free Mandela because he could become "a very strong politician" if he organised a disciplined party.

Negotiations should be started with the ANC without preconditions about violence. A suspension of violence, as prescribed by the Emminent Persons Group, would not lead to fair and equal negotiations because the threat of violence remained a wedge in the door. However, starting negotiations in itself was an end.

Although he did not underwrite the freedom charter, Mr Malan said he accepted the expectations expressed in it. Its mixed, socialist economy and strategies for dealing with oppression were frightening but they did not differ much from those used by Afrikaner leaders in the past.

He favoured the continuation of the State of Emergency but rejected the detention without trial of children aged 11 and 12. There were other avenues of dealing with them.

Asked what differences there were between he and the Progressive Federal Party, he said they adopted the doctrine of humanism and strived for a Western style liberal constitution through a national convention which he considered a naive approach. Nonetheless, he agreed with the freedom of association.

The concept of the rule of law was only applicable in a democracy. South Africa was part of Africa where the gaps caused by articulating needs through violence could only rightly be addressed through security action. Asked whether he shared the same policies as Mr Horace van Rensburg, the ex-PFP MP for Bryanston, he said he thought Mr van Rensburg was more conservative than he. He was also an irresponsible politicial who had brought borerehaat, [anti- Afrikaner feelings] into South African politics when it was least needed.

Mr Malan said he doubted whether the election of the three independent candidates would evoke any response from the traditional National Party power base, "if it has the ability to think." However, he expected National Party members would respond. "We do not want to take another political position. We want to declare a message."

Proposes Reform 'Process'

MB190654 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2316 GMT
18 Mar 87

[Text] Randburg March 18 SAPA — South Africa's political plight was the result of the destabilising thought patterns of absolutists, Mr Wynand Malan, independent candidate for Randburg, said tonight. Speaking to a crowd of about 1,000 people at the Randburg high school, some of whom stood crammed in the doorways and windows, he said South Africa's enemies were those who saw only one solution and rushed after it at all costs. They all observed the reality of South Africa from different perspective but each saw only part of the whole yet believed they had the definitive solution.

South Africa needed a negotiated future that no-one would prescribe, least of all himself. The idea was to move out of the cul-de-sac of centralised government. However, Mr Malan said, he favoured a democracy that would ensure universal franchise, but would take away power from the central government. The present government based on the majority party Westminster model, did not constitute a democracy but was an autocratic rulership by Afrikaners. It was like any other African state — but ruled by whites.

Mr Malan said he was proposing a process and not a final product. "We must move towards the 21st century." He said he knew there was local and foreign support for the "new spirit" in South Africa. A model of democracy should be sought that would incorporate the Third World sector and South Africa's First World sector. "We don't want to go back to the bush" and neither did urbanised blacks.

Having identified the enemy, his strategy was to confront revolutionaries advocating violence, including those "holy war" promoters who believed they killed on God's instruction. At the same time, world punitive actions against South Africa were counter-productive. Sanctions were at the same level as apartheid. Neither served a purpose.

The message to the African National Congress in Lusaka was that South Africa was not an easy mark. True negotiations with members of the internal wing of the ANC devoted to nationalism, would cut the ground out from under the external wing's local influence.

Mr Malan said competent people, instead of falling into the brain drain, should back up the system of negotiation with their commitment. This commitment should transcend political and racial boundaries. "What is right and what will work is more important who is right and who should govern." He said the Constitution should not be used to force morality on people.

Explains Stand on Conscription

MB190702 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2222 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Randburg March 18 SAPA — Conscription could only be justified if it was used to protect the integrity of a state seeking political solutions but unacceptable when used to maintain and protect white and elite privileges, Mr Wynand Malan, the independent candidate for Randburg, said tonight. Speaking to a packed high school hall, he said in reply to a question on why South Africans should die fighting in a country which did not belong to them, South Africa's involvement in SWA/Namibia should be ended after an expeditious settlement. "We have a responsibility to move out of Namibia after a settlement. I propose that an effort to try and resolve the issue must be to expedite the settlement."

Mr Malan said he was not dogmatic over conscription but that it revolved around a matter of purpose. "I'd love to see the day when we won't need conscription to deal with the problems we encounter presently." A young woman in the audience said during question time Mr Malan's approach had again given here and many South Africans hope for the future.

UDF's Boesak Criticizes 'Illusion' of Election

MB181432 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1415 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Cape Town March 18 SAPA — The election was the continuation of the "very dangerous illusion" that South Africa was a democracy, Dr Allan Boesak said at a UDF lunchtime meeting here today. The moderator of the NG Sending Kerk [Dutch Reformed Mission Church] and UDF patron told a capacity audience of about 550 people in the St George's Cathedral hall that he was not calling for a boycott of the election and that he was glad the UDF had not done so. Whites had to make up their own minds but there were "certain realities" which, if not taken into account now, would have an adverse effect not only on the future of the country, but on relationships between people. "You can't give credence to undemocratic institutions and still be seem as part of the forces struggling for democracy in this country."

He said he shuddered to think what would happen when the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, got the mandate he was asking for.

The very term "white election" seemed to him to be an anomaly. "How can we talk about white elections in 1987? How can we do so at this stage in our history, when we have gone through so much, when we know its dangerous to keep thinking that white people alone can somehow go on making decisions for us? The very fact that we are engaged in such a futile exercise is terribly revealing of the situation in which we find ourselves."

Dr Boesak said Dr Denis Worrall, the independent candidate in Helderberg, was calling for the government to move on its own commitment to reform. "Not a single black person understands what he is talking about," he said. "What commitment to reform? What commitment to negotiation?"

MP's were being kept in parliament by seven per cent of the population; the election had been called under a state of emergency; an estimated 30,000 people had been detained since June 12 last year; Nelson Mandela was still in jail and organisations and people were still banned. "These are the realities but they are not being talked about," he said. "What then become the issues? The irrelevant things that can't really make any difference."

Last year the Eminent Persons Group had come "so close" to breaking the logjam in South African politics, but the government had wrecked the initiatives by causing "bedlam, havoc and murder" through its raids on neighbouring states. This was the government that now said its commitment to negotiaiton had to be strengthened.

"I'm hoping the time will come when white South Africans of basic goodwill will make a distinction about these things and say they can't continue as if this situation is normal." He hoped that as May 6 drew near, white politicians in particular would take the trouble to find out what black people thought about the election, and what they thought those politicians should be doing.

The situation in the country was so serious, however, that people should not still be "wasting time" talking about whether or not to participate in an all-white election. "We should have been working together, working out a strategy to expose this undemocratic system to the world."

As long as there was a white liberal opposition in parliament, people would be able to say there was a democracy of sorts, and this would not help those fighting against the government.

ANC To Replace Apartheid With Peoples System

MB190928 Dakar PANA in English 0815 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Lusaka, 19 March (PANA) — The African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) will, after the downfall of the apartheid regime, establish a government chosen by all the people. In an brief statement issued to PANA on the occasion of 27th anniversary of the Sharpville massacre which falls on Saturday, ANC spokesman, Tom Sebina, said a new democratic system chosen by peoples of South African people will replace the present brutal system which gives all the power to the white minority.

This alternative has been illustrated by the creation of alternative structures in the numerous black areas where the government created councils were removed and replaced by peoples' committees after people had made the areas ungovernable, Sebina said. He said since the Sharpville massacre of 1960 South Africa has entered a very crucial stage, and events of the recent past years have shown the determination of the oppressed people of South Africa to make the final push towards the destruction of the racist regime.

The ANC spokesman said although the racist regime claims to have abolished pass laws, there were still a number of restrictions on the movement of Africans. For example, Sebina said, because of the Group Areas Act, South Africans were still not able to live where they chose.

Information Bureau Issues 18 March Unrest Report

MB190722 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0718 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Pretoria, March 19, SAPA — Here follows the Bureau for Information's unrest report for the 24-hour period ending midnight last night:

"Three black radicals threw stones at a private vehicle in Veeplass (Port Elizabeth) yesterday causing minimal damage. No injuries or arrests were reported.

"Unidentified black youths set fire to the Sonisanang school in Mamelodi (Pretoria) yesterday. Minimal damage and no injuries or arrests were reported.

"A group of black radicals threw stones at a PUTCO [Public Utilities Transport Corp] bus in Kwathema (Springs) yesterday. Minimal damage and no injuries or arrests were reported."

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

MB190640 [Editorial Report]

CITIZEN on White Disunity

The page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 18 March comments on Minister of Law and Order Adriaan Vlok's quote of banned ANC secretary general, Alfred Nzo. Vlok "has access to information on the ANC that nobody else has. And he has had the temerity — in the eyes of the Opposition — to quote Mr Alfred Nzo, the ANC secretary-general." The paper points out that it is precisely "the political division among whites that pleases the ANC most, since it is not fighting a united white population, but a very much divided one. We see nothing wrong in Mr Vlok disclosing the ANC strategy in this regard; it would, in fact, be remiss if he didn't."

Ad Supports Security Forces Day

Page 14 carries the advertisement issued by the University Freedom of Speech Association and the Victims Against Terrorism calling for support of the security forces day on Sunday 22 March. This same advertisement is carried on page 3 of Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 18 March.

STAR Defends RSA Judges

"South African judges — says the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) in a damning report on this country's justice — are open to criticism on two grounds. First, because in administering the ordinary law they have made decisions and imposed sentences which are 'apallingly harsh'. And secondly, 'on account of their participation in a legal system which denies basic rights to personal liberties,'" notes a page 14 editorial in *The Star*. The paper says "it needs to be understood that frequently the law does not leave judges a great deal of leeway — that is part of an all too familiar erosion of the rule of law by Parliament and the executive." "As to the broader questions of participating in an unjust legal system, the ICJ is on less certain philosophical ground. Even within the limits of that system, even under emergency rule, South African judges have managed to secure justice for many people, find legal gaps and reassert basic rights in exemplary fashion. In any case, what is the alternative to seeking whatever justice an unjust system allows, simply to abdicate the struggle? Wouldn't that leave defenceless citizens without any recourse to justice at all?"

Three NP-SWA MP's Vote With Republican Party

Brendan Seery writes on the same page that "for the first time in 37 years (according to older journalists), the National Party of South West Africa (NP-SWA) had been defeated on a motion by its parliamentary opponents. Directly responsible for Friday's defeat were three of the party's own members — Mr Thinus Blaauw, Mr Fanie Vilonel and Mr Frans van Zyl. The three 'rebels' voted with seven members of Mr Dirk Mudge's Republican Party on a motion, proposed by Mr van Zyl, which 'unambiguously' supported the principle that race and colour be scrapped as criteria for entrance to all schools in Namibia." "The NP-SWA hierarchy is not overly-distressed by the outcome of the vote. Party heavy-weights say their defeat means the white electorate should be allowed to go to the polls to say whether they think the NP-SWA has their best interests at heart."

Braun on 'Concurrent Majorities'

"One concept gaining currency in the minds of many Ministers is that of 'concurrent majorities,'" notes political correspondent David Braun on page 15. "The idea is that each group has its own elections for its constitutional decision-making forum to run its own affairs. The majority party or group in each forum is then represented on an equal basis on a separate forum, such as a Council of State, to deliberate and take decision on matters affecting everyone. The great dilemma for which there are no answers is how such a forum will ever take decisions which will not construe domination of one or more groups." One idea is that a "council representative of each group should in effect manage each portfolio while a figurehead Minister or State President would rotate on a regular basis (much the same as the Chairmanship of the Security Council of the United Nations rotates among its members)."

BUSINESS DAY on Finance Minister Irresponsibility

Finance Minister Barend du Plessis "complains that it would be unjust — unfair, even unscientific — for voters to cast their ballots on the basis of the country's recent economic performance," says a page 8 editorial in Johannesburg *Business Day* in English on 18 March. "He insists that voters look at the international context, previous performance, and the particular circumstances of this country. The first thing to be said about this self-serving whimper is that the NP has been managing the economy, the politics and the international relations of this country for almost four decades. Who are we to hold responsible?" "Inflation has been handled with limp-wristed self-indulgence, as though it were Nero's harp. And growth has been crippled. If Du Plessis is not prepared to be responsible for his own work, he owes it to himself and his country to hand over to somebody else. Else the voters should fire him for being both incompetent and irresponsible."

CAPE TIMES: CAAA More Harmful to U.S.

Simon Barber writes in his "Washington Letter" column on page 6 of Cape Town *Cape Times* in English on 17 March that "the truth, an ipso facto irrelevance in what passes for political debate here, is that the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act (CAAA) is hurting Americans more than it is hurting the white South African establishment at which it is aimed. It is difficult to evince much damage to the target economy. Trade and investment are up, the rand has strengthened. The act's restrictions, as such restrictions often do, appear to have spurred rather than dampened the victim's economic activity and resourcefulness. The U.S., on the other hand, has denied itself yet another market and narrowed the range of choices available to the producers upon whom its 'competitiveness' rests."

TRANSVALER on White Disunity

Pretoria *Die Transvaler* in Afrikaans on 17 March says white disunity is "used by the ANC to spur on revolution." Trying to discredit the NP "has a counterproductive effect on the progress of matters since the attainable aims are constantly being shifted. This arouses impatience and frustration which presents a danger for the order and development of the country. There are too many ordinary people and great spirits who do not want to cooperate with the party which has the ability, the wide support and the right attitude to ensure a peaceful future for all. These people will still be made to answer for that."

VADERLAND on White Disunity

"It is true that white disunity is taking on serious dimensions," says a page 14 editorial in Johannesburg *Die Transvaler* in Afrikaans on 17 March. "It is also true that black nationalism is a unifying power and is being used by radical black leaders. It would be reason for unease if we were to move into a bargaining position where divided whites were to face a united black front. The NP wants to prevent this. Therefore it asks the voters for a mandate which will place it in a position to avoid such a polarization through political power sharing with a moderate black majority."

BEELD: Worrall 'Hampers' Flow of Information

A page 10 editorial in Johannesburg *Beeld* in Afrikaans on 18 March says: "'Political corruption' is an explosive phrase. Dr Worrall said recently that he was returning to South Africa to help the government, but now he is accusing the government of actions akin to political corruption." *Beeld* comments on Worrall's criticism of Minister of Law and Order Adriaan Vlok for quoting banned ANC General Secretary Alfred Nzo. "A plan to disrupt the white elections in South Africa must be viewed earnestly because it is through disruption that democracy will be placed in danger." "It is strange that the independents want to hamper the flow of information with damnatory judgments."

AWB Move Into Parliament

A second editorial on the same page says AWB leader Eugene Terreblanche is making the right-wing groups "dance to his music." He wants to create the impression that "he is the great apostle for right wing unity. He wants to reconcile Treurnicht's CP and Jaap Marais' HNP — however unlikely such a marriage may appear to be. In the meantime he has played his cards in such a way that he can ride into parliament on the back of the CP, even thought the AWB is not participating officially in the election." "Now Treurnicht is saddled with an AWB Trojan horse. It takes no great prophet to predict what will happen if these CP-AWB members have to sit in Parliament and Terreblanche cracks his whip."

ZAMBIA

No Copper Exports Through RSA Since Last November

MB181000 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0900 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] The South African Transport Services [SATS] say Zambia has not exported copper through South African harbors since last November. This comment follows reports that the metal is being sent for export to Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and Beira in Mozambique.

The Zambian minister of mining, Mr Patrick Chitambala, [as heard] has said there are no problems with copper exports. He has not disclosed what quantity has been exported so far this year. However, the general manager of the TAZARA [Tanzania Zambia Railway Authority] railway line said earlier that no metals had been exported from Beira, in Mozambique, for the past 3 months.

Kaunda Receives Visiting DPRK Official

MB181325 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] The president, Comrade Kaunda, has emphasized that the division between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and South Korea is artificial and has criticized outside forces for perpetuating (?it). He said as a matter of principle Zambia firmly supports the peaceful reunification of Korea and the (?stand) taken by the leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kim Il-song, in achieving this goal.

The president was speaking at the State House when the visiting Democratic People's Republic of Korea vice minister for public security, Comrade Yi Sang-pyok, called on him. He deplored the attitude of powerful countries who use material and physical powers to divide other nations, urging them to (?change). The president also told Comrade Yi that he was unable to attend next month's birthday celebrations for Kim Il-song because of other pressing commitments, but assured his host that he would be represented.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea leader will be celebrating his 75th birthday on April 15 and has extended an invitation to President Kaunda to attend the occasion. He described the Democratic People's Republic of Korea leader as one of the most outstanding revolutionaries that has contributed a lot to the development of peace in the world. Comrade Yi lauded the successes that have been scored by the Zambian people and attributed these largely to President Kaunda's good leadership.

ZIMBABWE

Nkomo Noncommittal on Party Unity Prospects

MB181735 Dakar PANA in English 1720 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Bulawayo (Zimbabwe) 18 March (IANA/PANA) — The president of the Zimbabwe African People's Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) Joshua Nkomo, has said he will not address any more rallies on the subject of unity talks between his party and the ruling ZANU (PF). I think I have said enough and I shall wait to hear what others have to say, Nkomo told the *Zimbabwe Inter-African News Agency*, ZIANA. He said the public had responded well to the talks and people should decide for themselves how best they could influence events.

Nkomo declined to give reasons for the delay in concluding the talks and would not be drawn into viewing progress towards unity either optimistically or pessimistically. I do not believe in words like optimism or pessimism. I believe in doing a job to the best of my ability. Whether the job succeeds or not is another matter, he said. The ZAPU leader, who recently returned from a visit to the United Kingdom, said ordinary people there were not interested in what was going on in southern Africa. They have their cars, televisions and enough food for themselves. The only thing that worries them are the nuclear weapons, he said.

Britain had a stake in South Africa and its use of the veto in the Security Council was meant to protect that stake. Nkomo said that Britain was bent on making sanctions against South Africa ineffective. Sanctions against Ian Smith's Rhodesia were deliberately made weak by the British through their oil companies. They know that the alternative of armed struggle which Zimbabweans used, will be resorted to by the oppressed majority in South Africa. Why the British should choose that, one does not understand, he said.

Criticizes UK on Sanctions

MB181632 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] The leader of PF-ZAPU, Dr Joshua Nkomo, says the British Government is bent on making international sanctions against the racist regime in South Africa ineffective. Dr Nkomo, who returned from a visit to Britain recently, told ZIANA that Britain has a stake in South Africa, and her recent use of her veto in the Security Council of a resolution on sanctions against the Pretoria regime is meant to protect British interests in South Africa. He said sanctions against the Ian Smith regime during the years of UDI [Unilateral Declaration of Independence] were deliberately made weak by various British Governments through oil companies which circumvented international sanctions. Dr Nkomo said he does not understand why Britain should choose not to support sanctions against the Pretoria regime when told that the alternative will be an armed struggle, as was the case in Rhodesia.

Senators Criticize Smith, RSA 'Apologists'

MB190736 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2125 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Harare March 18 SAPA — The white community in Zimbabwe has been challenged to stand up and be counted on the issue of sanctions against South Africa and how they feel about racism and apartheid, according to ZIANA, Zimbabwe's semi-official news agency. The leader of the Senate and deputy minister of education, Senator Joseph Culverwell, told the upper house today that Mr Ian Smith and members of his Conservative Alliance of Zimbabwe Party [CAZ] were still living in colonial Rhodesia and were acting as "apologists" for South Africa, ZIANA reported. He urged the government to detain Mr Smith for questioning "for at least a year" for his recent utterances in South Africa, saying they amounted to consorting "with the enemy".

"Why should we leave this man alone?" asked Senator Culverwell, who had introduced a motion in the Senate asking the upper house to "strongly deplore the pro-apartheid position" taken by Mr Smith in advocating opposition to the adoption of sanctions against South Africa by the international community.

"We must ask that this man be detained for at least a year. Let us put him in for a year and let him suffer just as we did."

Senator Culverwell said there were some whites in Zimbabwe and in the Senate who subscribed to the views expressed by Mr Smith, which could only be construed as pro-apartheid. "I wonder why they are still here," he said, "stand up and be counted. Tell us if you oppose apartheid." He said it was surprising that not one of the white senators spoke about the degradation and savagery of the white minority South African Government on the black majority in that country. Children between the ages of eight and 14 years were being detained and sjamboked [beaten with clubs], said Senator Culverwell, adding "yet we have a few apologists in this house for the South African Government."

Senator Culverwell said Mr Smith and other whites who shared his views were the last people in a position to talk about the effects of sanctions against South Africa on the people of Zimbabwe. "If we decide on sanctions who the hell are they to tell us not to suffer," said Senator Culverwell.

On the point of detaining Mr Smith, Senator Culverwell was supported by the governor of Manicaland, Bishop Joshua Dhube, who said a person of Mr Smith's political stature should be made to see that he could not go around the world saying things that were contrary to the aspirations of the people. "Why cannot the government take him in for a little bit of questioning and put him in a cell for a few days while they find out what he is up to," said Bishop Dhube.

"If it is seen in the end that he is just really not for this country, not for unity, not for working together, perhaps the government can ask him to leave the country and let him go where he will be happier."

Senator Chief Mangwende charged that all members of the CAZ were like Mr Smith.

The governor of Mashonaland West, Senator Mudhumeni Chivende said Mr Smith's utterances in South Africa had spoilt good relations between blacks and whites in Zimbabwe. He said all CAZ members should come out load and clear whether they were loyal to Zimbabwe or Mr Smith. Governor Jacob Mudenda of Matabeleland North said if the government decided to take action against Mr Smith then he must be punished not as a human being but as a racist.

Radio Truth Commentaries Highlight Peace Efforts

'Discontent' Seen in FAM

MB181535 (Clandestine) Radio Truth in English to Zimbabwe 0430 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Through our contacts in the ZNA [Zimbabwe National Army] and in Maputo, we have revealed in several programs the level of discontent in the Mozambican Armed Forces [FAM] and the rising tide of black nationalism in that country. It has been confirmed that a group of senior FAM officers and politicians who are veterans of the colonial war have told the Frelimo Politburo of their dissatisfaction with the role and influence of whites, mulattos and Asians in the government and the party. This group, headed by Minister of Defense Alberto Chipande and containing at least three prominent FAM major generals, is in favor of negotiations with Renamo and the formation of a coalition government. The new authority, in their view, should be exclusive to leading black personalities in both organizations. This information ties in with the recent reorganization of the MNR structure in Europe.

As we mentioned, there is a strong feeling that the government should reflect the composition of the nation, and that indigenous origins rather than Mozambican citizenship should be the criterion of service in government. White and Asian Mozambicans were accused of concealing apartheid and of hiding behind revolutionary slogans, when their real aim was to convert Mozambique into a future Brazil. With regard to the civil war, this group are in favor of national reconciliation and are strongly opposed to putting the conflict on an international footing. They consider that Renamo's participation in a future government is inevitable, and that if Frelimo prolonged the war they could be defeated on the battlefield. In that event, Frelimo would be forced back again into the bush and the whole cycle of violence would continue indefinitely.

According to our informant, President Chissano was prepared to consider and adapt these views if they were shown to be acceptable to the majority in the military hierarchy and could be tested in a referendum among the local population. The black nationalist faction have lobbied their opinion with other former Portuguese colonies in Africa. The recent summit conference in Luanda was called to discuss what was termed the Mozambican problem. But this disaffection in the ranks of the FAM had been building up for some time and started well before the untimely death of Samora Machel. However, there are delicate calculations to be made on the reaction of the Soviet Union and ZANU-PF, as well as the general international community. Furthermore, it was necessary to be assured of Renamo's cooperation with the group of four during and after any takeover process.

These are exciting developments related to the prime needs of peace in our region. The attitude of Comrade Mugabe and ZANU-PF is all important, and we will have more to say on this subject in our next broadcast.

Peace 'Obstructed' by Mugabe

MB181537 (Clandestine) Radio Truth in English to Zimbabwe 0430 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] This is a second part of presentation on the prospects for peace in Mozambique. As I indicated in yesterday's broadcast, the standpoint and attitudes of ZANU-PF and the ZNA [Zimbabwe National Army] are crucial to the resolution of this long-standing civil war. On very good authority, we have stressed on a number of occasions that the presence of our task force in Mozambique is not popular with the majority of our own citizens and most certainly is resented by the inhabitants of that war-torn country. They regard our forces as an army of occupation whose involvement merely prolongs their agony.

One of the main planks of Renamo policy and a prime condition for a negotiated settlement is that all foreign troops must be withdrawn from Mozambique. Our ZNA units are specifically identified as part of the foreign contingent. A second and most important factor is the ongoing friction and mistrust between our ZNA task force and the commanders and soldiers of the Mozambican army of FAM [Mozambican Armed Forces]. There have been consistent and well-founded reports of physical clashes between units and individuals of the two forces, and it is a known and ill-concealed fact that our troops hold their Mozambican counterparts in contempt. Our men believe, with justification, that FAM are disorganized, undisciplined, and lack the essential fighting spirit to prosecute the war. This belief has arisen over action in which the ZNA has captured ground and handed it back to FAM for garrison duties only to find that FPLM had surrendered to the first Renamo counterattack, and without a fight. Worst of all, our commanders have notified the CIO [Central Intelligence Organization] and the government that FAM members have given advanced information to Renamo concerning impending ZNA attacks against MNR bases. This is why the majority of supposed combined operations have achieved little or no real success. Mozambican soldiers have also leaked information on ZNA deployments and patrols in the Beira Corridor and have even taken part in some of Renamo's sabotage actions.

Our senior officers are fully aware that many of the opposite members are in favor of negotiating a cease-fire with the MNR. As a result of these various tensions and conflict our task force is reluctant to take part in any more combined offensives.

With these relationships at rock bottom, Comrade Mugabe has warned President Chissano that if negotiations take place between FAM officers and Renamo, the ZNA task force will withdraw from Mozambique. This ties in with our prime ministers' openly declared hostility to the formation of a coalition government with Renamo on the spurious ground that this would somehow present a threat to the sovereignty of Zimbabwe. This is an utterly false contention, as we have underscored before, because our country stands to benefit enormously from peace and stability in Mozambique. Mugabe's real fear is that a negotiated settlement would seriously weaken the pro-Marxist influence in the region and thus undermine his own power base.

As we disclosed yesterday, for external consumption Chissano still talks about continuing the military struggle and has declared his opposition to negotiation. Within closed circles of the Frelimo hierarchy, however, he has taken note of the opinions of the black nationalist faction, and agreed to negotiate with Renamo if he is assured that the majority in FAM and the local population favor this policy.

The conclusion to be drawn therefore is that peace is an attainable and desired target in Mozambique but is being obstructed by Comrade Mugabe and the radicals in ZANU-PF. They are determined to colonize central Mozambique and retain a broad swathe control along the Beira Corridor. To this end they are doing their utmost to prevent reconciliation and to block the formation of a unitary government between Frelimo and Renamo. Even if Chissano reached an amicable accommodation with the MNR and formed a joint interim administration, it seems probable that our prime minister would keep the ZNA task force in Mozambique in defiance of the wishes of a new government in Maputo.

This would be a gross infringement of Mozambican sovereignty, and in that event, ought to be roundly condemned by the OAU, the NAM [Nonaligned Movement], and the United Nations. It could lead to open conflict with forces loyal to the coalition government and severely prejudice the safety of our lifelines to the sea. In this context, and coupled with the clandestine action against Malawi, ZANU-PF would clearly be the true warmongers and destabilizers in southern Africa. Moreover, the people of Mozambique will never forgive those who, for their own selfish reasons, add to the hardships and suffering they have endured.